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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-198
Thursday
13 October 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, Peres Hold Talks With King Husayn in Amman

TA1310060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night made a brief visit to Amman for a meeting with King Husayn. It was the first time the king had held a public summit meeting in the Jordanian capital with the Israeli premier. Jack Katzenell has the details:

Apparently the summit meeting in Amman was scheduled in advance, but Prime Minister Rabin decided to take advantage of it to signal to the Palestinians that the peace process with Jordan continues in spite of the kidnapping of the soldier Nahshon Wachsman by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The prime minister's spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami told our reporter Mark Weiss that Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres, and the king had a long discussion at the royal palace in Amman.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] They discussed the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. After dedicating most of yesterday to the kidnapping of soldier Nahshon Wachsman, Prime Minister Rabin left for Amman in order to maintain the peace process and in order to show that terror activities cannot ban the peace from coming. The discussion with the king of Jordan was another step ahead toward signing a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

[Weiss] Now, the Americans we know are pushing for an agreement before the end of the year. This obviously came up in the conversation. Can you tell us any more about this?

[Ben-'Ami] Well, this is the assumption here in Jerusalem as well, and, as the prime minister stated in his speech at the Knesset at the beginning of the winter session, we hope that before the end of this year we will be able to sign a peace treaty with Jordan. [end recording]

The king has already had two public meetings with Prime Minister Rabin, but they were held in al-'Aqabah. This was the first time that such a public summit had taken place in the Jordan capital. There are persistent reports that the peace treaty with Jordan could be signed next month in the United States, but for this there would have to be real progress on the two most contentious issues: water rights and delineation of the border.

No Progress Seen in Talks in Cairo

TA1210121094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Oct 94 p A6

[Report by correspondent in the territories Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] No progress was reported yesterday in the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on elections in the territories. An Israeli delegation spokeswoman said that only one session was held yesterday morning, in which the two sides held a "general discussion" about the character and authority of the elective council.

Apparently the differences of opinion between the two delegations remain intact.

The Palestinians did not answer Israel's proposal to establish a joint committee for supervising the elections, to be made up of three Israeli and three Palestinian judges. [passage omitted]

The Israeli spokeswoman said that yesterday the two sides reached the conclusion that they are not ready to discuss a joint agenda. For this reason, they retired in the afternoon for closed internal meetings aimed at preparing their positions and points for discussion during today's talks.

Progress Noted in Israeli-Jordanian Elat Talks

TA1210130094 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Shmu'el Tagar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eytan Bentzur, deputy head of the Israeli delegation, announced that progress was made on several issues in the Israeli-Jordanian talks that ended in Elat yesterday. Bentzur said that agreements on the issues of energy and the peace valley (Jordan Rift Valley) project are possible as early as this week. Agreement was reached on veterinarian issues, and agreements in principle were reached on plant-preservation projects. Understanding was also reached on counternarcotics cooperation between the two police forces.

The Jordanian representatives, who yesterday returned to sleep in al-'Aqabah, appeared to be much more relaxed, and members of the two delegations held personal meetings at the Neptune Hotel. One such meeting on transportation issues was held between El Al chairman Rafi Harlev and the chairman of the Jordanian national airline.

The most concrete progress was made on a master plan for electricity—a plan to link the electricity grids of the two countries.

Jordanian Spokesman Sums Up Talks

JN1210232094 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Elat, 12 Oct (PETRA)—The Jordanian-Israeli committees and subcommittees in the bilateral peace negotiations continued their meetings for the third consecutive day to complete discussion on the agenda topics. These topics focus on the issues of security, borders, territory, and water in addition to the environment, electricity, energy, tourism, trade, and developing the Jordan Rift Valley.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman of the Jordanian negotiating delegation, summed up the progress of negotiations and the steps taken since they began. He said all bilateral committees are holding continued meetings to seriously and profoundly discuss and complete various topics listed on their agendas. These committees have achieved a lot of progress on the issues they are addressing.

He added: There is concentration on the meetings of the three main committees discussing the issues of territory, water, borders, and security. Despite the fact that these committees made progress, some gaps have not thus far been bridged. These gaps prevent reaching agreements. However, this does not mean we are facing a deadlock, he noted.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the failure so far to reach an agreement on the main issues; namely, territory, borders, water, and security is due to some technical problems, which should be overcome and for which appropriate solutions should be worked out before a political decision is made on them. He stated that Jordan will not relinquish its sovereign rights to territory and water. These rights are a basic pillar in the bilateral negotiations and are considered Jordanian constants that cannot be sold out under any circumstances.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that despite some gaps preventing an agreement, the issue of territory has achieved a clear breakthrough since the common agenda was signed in September 1993. The Jordanian and Israeli sides are now in the process of demarcating the borders between the two countries in accordance with the [British] mandate agreement, he added.

Regarding the water issue, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir indicated that this issue, too, has achieved a clear breakthrough. In the past, Israel failed to recognize Jordanian rights to the water of the River Jordan. However, Israel now recognizes Jordan's right to the water of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers. The two sides are now discussing the rights of both sides to the quantities and quality of this water.

Regarding the subcommittees, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said they are continuing their work and discussing the future responsibilities and arrangements in the wake of the peace process. These arrangements include a plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. The terms of reference of this plan were agreed, and the appropriate funding for it was discussed. This plan includes many projects in the fields of tourism, electricity, transportation, the environment, and a canal linking the Red and Mediterranean seas. It is expected that the plan will be announced during the economic conference that will be held in Casablanca at the end of this month.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the date for opening the northern crossing will be announced once Israel finishes the works on this crossing on its side. He indicated that Jordan has finished the works on its side of the crossing.

Agreement To Link Electricity Grids

TA1310064294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Jordan have agreed to merge the electricity grids of Elat and al-'Aqabah and declared the Gulf of Elat a joint Israeli-Jordanian water park. However, at talks between the two sides yesterday in Elat, the negotiators failed to make progress on border demarcation or on Jordanian flights over Israel.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Expresses Concern Over Gulf Developments

JN1310093694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has said that he is following with extreme concern and interest news reports on tension in the Gulf. He expressed his support for every sincere effort to restore Arab solidarity, eliminate all causes of tension, and to clear the Arab atmosphere so that the spirit of brotherhood will prevail in a way that serves the interests of the Arab nation and peoples.

His excellency expressed the hope that the situation will not be escalated to the point of a war or any military confrontations, and that the fraternal Iraqi people's suffering will end soon.

Paper Urges Arab States To Heed Iraq's 'Outcry'

MM1210121294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "He Is Strong and They Are Weak"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The hungry, besieged, and exhausted Iraq has suddenly become a savage beast, putting aircraft carriers on the move and U.S. missile bases on alert ready to attack it. This is the same Iraq whose arms, we were told four years ago, were destroyed, whose soldiers were in disarray, and whose air force was crippled. It now poses a threat to mankind and to Kuwaiti wealth just because it moved some Kuwaiti civilians stripped of their citizenship to demonstrate near the borders to draw attention to their tragedy and the tragedy of over 18 million Iraqis, of whom every year a number equal to twice the population of Kuwait, including all classes and servants, die as a result of the blockade.

The old/new Iraqi demands are clear and specific. In brief, what the Iraqis want is an end to the unfair four-year-old blockade. It is regrettable that some Arab states subservient to the U.S. Administration and its designs immediately began advising the Iraqi leadership that implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions is the only way to end the embargo, knowing perfectly well that Iraq has already implemented more than 95 percent of these resolutions and is prepared to comply with the remaining 5 percent pertaining to recognition of the great state of Kuwait and its old/new borders if the United States sets a date for lifting the embargo.

We and the Iraqis have a right to ask this legitimate question: Why does the United States urge the UN Security Council to lift the embargo imposed on the Serbs even though they have only complied with 5 percent of what is required of them, yet does not do the same for Iraq despite the latter's compliance with all UN resolutions and full cooperation with the arrogant UN inspection teams? And why does it send mediators to negotiate with Haiti's military junta to solve the problem peacefully, yet does not do the same thing with Iraq?

What has Iraq done other than move its forces within its international borders and put up tents for the stateless, to warrant the U.S. Administration's portrayal of Iraq as an aggressor and to use that as an excuse to maintain the embargo forever instead of understanding the causes and motives of these steps? Why should Iraq not be allowed to move its forces within its own territory while the United States is allowed to move its warships in Arab waters?

Iraq has tried by all means to cooperation with the new world order. It has endured the destruction of the fruits of its scientists' work in nuclear and chemical plants at the hands of Western intelligence agents, all that "just to ease" its people's suffering, but in vain. What more is there for Iraq to lose and what more can it do?

Iraq will lose nothing, but the losers will be its enemies who drove it to this sad situation, particularly those Arabs who ended the boycott of Israel in return for a tightening of the blockade against Iraq, stabbing it in the back for the thousandth time without mercy or pity and without any regard for its religion and its Arabism.

Just as the Kuwait "liberation" war emptied the coffers of most Gulf states, turning them from the richest states in the world with assets and deposits to debtor states to whom world banks avoid giving loans, so the current crisis will definitely make it imperative for them to prepare from now on for settling the bills for the movements of the U.S. aircraft carriers and for all the alcohol and debauchery of those on board as they travel for months to come, and also for the bills resulting from the declaration of a state of emergency in the Marine Corps. As regards Kuwait, suffice it to say that it will not know stability and peace of mind for generations to come because of its government's shortsighted policies in acting as victors and not even keeping the few friends who supported Kuwait not as a matter of principle but out of greed with their eyes on the spoils.

Iraq has decided to cry out and protest. At any rate, it has not miscalculated because it has no calculations to be right or wrong about. It fully realizes that in political, economic, and military equations it is the weaker side. It has no doubt about that and there is no need for analysis by "brainy Arabs" to convince it of these obvious facts. What is required of us Arabs and the international community is to listen to its groans and understand its outcry and excuse it if it committed suicide or even brought the temple down on its own head and the heads of its enemies.

The blame for any action taken by Iraq, even if it is a second invasion of Kuwait, would fall on us all because we would have been able to prevent it had we allowed Iraq back into the international community. A prisoner is rewarded for good conduct and compliance with prison rules with a reduction of sentence or pardon but, regrettably, we have not done that with Iraq.

Anyway, seeing the emerging fear and alarm, we can confidently say that the weak, hungry, and besieged Iraq is still stronger than its neighbors and enemies despite the dozens of billions they spent on sophisticated weapons deals. No sooner had it begun to stir than they rushed to Washington and London seeking help and protection.

Reportage on Abduction of Israeli Soldier in Gaza

Hamas Leaders Deny Responsibility

TA1210115694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources have denied that the abducted soldier Nahshon Wachsman is being held in the Gaza Strip. Speaking to our correspondent Eli Buhadana, Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, categorically denied that Hamas in Gaza is responsible for the kidnapping. In a meeting in Gaza this morning, Hamas leaders told Yasir 'Arafat that the group that kidnapped the soldier had acted independently. They contended that the group is operating out of the West Bank and not out of Gaza. [passage omitted]

Group Claims Responsibility

JN1210185094 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Oct 94

["Military Statement" issued by the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions announces that it is responsible for kidnapping the Zionist soldier Nahshon Wachsman, who carries identity card No. 3,228,629. He is alive and being treated in the manner prescribed by Islam for a prisoner.

We demand the following from the Zionist Government:

1. Immediate freedom for Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; Shaykh Salah Shihadah; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd; and Shaykh Mustafa Dirani.

2. Freedom for all the detainees of the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

3. Freedom for 50 Hamas members who are serving long prison sentences, 25 Islamic Jihad Movement detainees serving long sentences, 50 detainees of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, serving long sentences, 20 detainees of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 10 detainees of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 20 Hizballah fighter prisoners; five detainees of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; and the release of all Palestinian women detainees.

Al-Qassam Battalions statement added: Brother detainees, our kinsfolk: We shall keep going on this road until the last detainee held in the obnoxious enemy prisons is set free no matter what the sacrifices. We send this operation as a gift to the souls of the heroic martyrs Hasan 'Abbas and 'Isam al-Jawhari.

Should the Zionist enemy government reject our demands, we will hold it responsbile for killing the soldier. It will be made to pay dearly for his body. The deadline for the demanded releases is 2100 [1900 GMT] Friday, 14 October 1994. It is a jihad of victory or martyrdom.

[signed] Al-Qassam Battalions.

Palestinian Police Searching

TA1210201594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Large numbers of Palestinian police are now searching orchards and agricultural plots in the southern part of the Gaza Strip and in the Khan Yunus and Rafah areas for kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem who is stationed opposite Yasir 'Arafat's offices in Gaza City. For several hours, 'Arafat has been meeting with Palestinian officials.

Numerous roadblocks have been set up in Gaza city and policemen are inspecting vehicles.

A REUTERS correspondent in Gaza City adds that Yasir 'Arafat and his men have decided to start arresting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists until the kidnapped soldier is found. The reporter learned about the decision from a Palestinian source who asked to remain anonymous.

Reactions Reported

JN1210202594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has strongly condemned the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier and ordered intensive efforts by the security organs to bring about his safe release.

Palestinian officials in Gaza are unanimous that the abducted Israeli soldier is not in the National Authority areas.

'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah told Agence France Press today that President 'Arafat considers the kidnapping operation a challenge to the Palestinian National Authority and an infringement on the peace process.

'Arafat's Adviser Marwan Kanafani said that it is unreasonable that the National Authority should be responsible for an abduction operation that occurred outside the National Authority area. He added that there is no evidence that the abducted soldier is in Gaza. Kanafani described the Israeli decision to stop negotiations as a serious indicator.

Fatah Central Committee Member Hakam Bal'awi denied that the Israeli soldier is in the areas of the National Authority. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian National Authority presidential secretary said that the abducted Israeli soldier is in Israel and not in the Gaza Strip.

Leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Gaza told President Yasir 'Arafat today that the abducted Israeli soldier is not in Gaza and that the group that abducted him is not from Gaza, that it had acted on its own and without coordination with the Hamas movement in the strip.

'Arafat had earlier asked Hamas leaders to help in operations to locate the kidnapped soldier, and they promised to provide information on the place of detention if they obtained such information.

Leaders of the Hamas movement who were contacted by the Voice of Palestine today declined to comment on the abduction of the Israeli soldier.

Arrests Reportedly Made

TA1310053694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian security forces carried out widespread searches and arrests overnight in the Gaza Strip but they did not find the abducted Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman. Dozens of suspects were detained on suspicion of belonging to the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. They were being interrogated by the Palestinian General Security Service. The overnight operation was the largest since the Palestinians gained control over the Gaza Strip. Nine thousand five hundred members of the security forces took part, led by the commander of the autonomy police General Nasr Yusuf. The operation was ordered by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Jailed Hamas leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, has called on the kidnappers of Nahshon Wachsman not to harm him. In an interview with Israel television, Yasin stated that the murder of prisoners is forbidden by Islam. Another prisoner, Salah Shihadah, one of the founders of the Hamas military wing, called on the kidnappers to make sure the captive returns safely to his family.

'Arafat Spokesman Comments

TA1310061694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, says the Palestinians are cooperating with Israel in the search for the missing soldier. But, in an interview with reporter Mark Weiss, Kanafani casts doubt on Israel's claim that the kidnappers are inside the Gaza Strip.

[Begin recording] [Kanafani] The president conducts his business as usual. He has contacts with a lot of people of different political affiliations. And he promised Prime Minister Rabin to assist in finding an end to the situation that took place yesterday, and he is doing that.

[Weiss] How will Chairman 'Arafat respond to Mr. Rabin's request to find out the details?

[Kanafani] Well, he will respond in a way that would help the situation. He will commission his security officers and the leaders of the police force and the political leaders to do everything possible to find an end to this situation and to try to prove those who claim that the soldier is in Gaza either wrong, or you know that the information that they are saying is not accurate.

[Weiss] Is it still the position of the Palestinian Authority that the kidnappers are not in Gaza?

[Kanafani] Well, you know nobody is talking about the kidnappers, because the kidnappers were killed. Because, the kidnappers were not the issue. The issue is how do you call it, the soldier. You know, until this moment the Palestinian authorities do not have any proof, tangible proof, that this soldier is in Gaza.

[Weiss] There are reports that a wave of arrests against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders and activists is imminent. Can you confirm this?

[Kanafani] Well you know I can confirm that the police force and the security forces in Palestine, in Gaza, will do everything possible to implement law and order. And, if that means to arrest some people, that will take place, but everything will be then according to the law of the land.

[Weiss] Will the crackdown against Hamas continue until the soldier is found?

[Kanafani] You know, I am not talking here about a crackdown against any political organization. I am talking about the implementation of law and order in Gaza.

[Weiss] Will the efforts to find the soldier continue until he is found?

[Kanafani] Yes, as I told you, the president promised Prime Minister Rabin to do his utmost to help and assist in this situation, and he is doing right that. [end recording]

Hamas Condemns Christopher Remarks

JN1310073994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Oct 94 pp 12, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday shot back at U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's condemnation of the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian Islamists.

In a statement faxed to the JORDAN TIMES, Hamas condemned the remarks that Mr. Christopher who made a hastily convened press conference early Wednesday. [sentence as received]

Hamas said Mr. Christopher had proven that the United States had become a tool for the Zionist lobby by devoting a press conference to condemn the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier.

The statement, which had no dateline, said Mr. Christopher's attempt to mobilise public opinion against Hamas shows "disregard for all the values that his 'democratic' government boasts of" and constitutes a declaration of confrontation with Arab and Muslim people who support Hamas.

In the press conference he held before leaving Jordan for Kuwait, Mr. Christopher said he was "outraged" over the kidnapping of Israeli corporal Nahshon Wachsman near Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Mr. Christopher said he had telephoned Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat over the incident and urged him to take all possible actions to rescue the soldier. He said Mr. 'Arafat described as very serious the kidnapping of the soldier and promised him he will do anything he can to secure the release of the soldier.

Hamas, which said it will continue its armed struggle against Israeli occupation forces, has demanded the release of several Islamist leaders detained by Israel by Friday or the soldier will be killed.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in a video recording broadcast on Israeli Television on Tuesday.

News agencies quoted Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, a spokesman for Mr. 'Arafat, as saying the kidnapping was a challenge to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Mr. Abu-Rudaynah said Mr. 'Arafat gave orders to his security officials to start an immediate search for the Israeli soldier during a meeting with members of the Palestine National Authority late Tuesday night.

Mr. Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian leader strongly condemns the kidnapping while Mr. Christopher told reporters Mr. 'Arafat had told him the operation was directed against him personally.

Hamas, which claimed the "heroic operation" was conducted by its 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, demanded the release of its founder Shaykh Ahmad Yassin who is serving a life sentence in Israel. It also said Israel must free all jailed members of 'Izz al-Din al- Qassam Brigades, 50 other Hamas militants, 25 members of the Islamic Jihad movement, 50 members of Fatah and 10 activists of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In the statement, the Islamic movement said Mr. Christopher's comments will not succeed in distorting the image of Hamas, which "the Palestinian people, our Arab and Muslim nation and all the free people in the world know, is a patriotic movement exercising its people's legitimate right to fight those who scattered its people and violated the sacredness of their holy shrines."

It said the right to resist occupation is one guaranteed by all religions and international laws, adding that it will continue to oppose the peace talks and to resist the occupation until all of Palestine is freed.

Hamas Urges Continuation of Arab Boycott

TA1210161294 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Hisam al-Qadah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on Arab countries to maintain their boycott of Israel in all spheres. It urged them not to slip into the quagmire of normalization with Israel and to preserve a unified Arab and Islamic stance toward the boycott.

In a statement issued yesterday, Hamas criticized the positions of Morocco and Tunisia, which are hastening to normalize relations with Israel. It also criticized the Gulf states' announcement on lifting the economic boycott against Israel, stressing that this is the result of the accelerated peace process.

Hamas noted that Israel does not want to restore Palestinian rights to their owners but is very eager to break the barriers between it and the Arab states, establish relations with them, and impose economic and cultural control over the region.

Hamas said that the Arab policy of vigorous normalization with the Hebrew state will produce many negative results. Those results will only affect the Palestinian people who are still suffering from the occupation, settlement activity, the practices of the Israeli Army and its special forces, and confiscation of their land.

In its statement, Hamas called on Arab and Islamic states not to fall into the trap of Israeli plans to contain the region. It pointed out that Jerusalem is still occupied and under siege and its legal owners are prevented from entering the city and conducting their religious rites. This stems from a continuing Israeli policy to Judaize Jerusalem and alter its features.

Algeria

Plans To Change Military Leadership Reported

MM1210160094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 94 pp1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Military sources in Algiers yesterday confirmed to AL-HAYAH that President Major General Liamine Zeroual is preparing to introduce "qualitative changes" in the military establishment with the aim of "striking a balance" between the decision he intends to announce, releasing the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders, and the hardline wing of the military command.

The sources said that the expected measures will be announced on the anniversary of the revolution against French colonialism on 1 November. Zeroual will on that occasion announce promotions which will include some senior military commanders. He is also expected to announce a general amnesty for FIS prisoners.

The sources expect the president to promote Army Chief of Staff Major General Mohamed Lamari to the highest military rank and give him other duties. Some other generals and colonels will also be promoted.

According to informed sources, the expected move will "aim to strike a balance between the decision to release the FIS leaders and the desire to please the wing which has reservations regarding the president's policy." That wing consists of a number of senior officers who are described by their opponents as "France's officers." They mainly include Generals Mohamed Lamari, Abbas Ghazil, Larabi Belkhayr, and Khaled Nezzar.

Sources close to the National Liberation Front [FLN] have told AL-HAYAH that the FLN Political Bureau met recently to assess the past four dialogue sessions and after "heated" discussions the conferees concluded that the authorities' only aim behind the dialogue is to gain time, that the crisis is moving toward further complication, and that "those with influence have no genuine intention to end Algeria's bloodbath."

The sources added that the FLN Political Bureau "sees no benefit in continuing the dialogue with the authorities unless they take the qualitative steps" previously mentioned in the prerequisites for a successful dialogue, including:

1. Speeding up the release of FIS leaders and those detained because of their views.
2. Abolishing the special courts and emergency laws.
3. Terminating the state of emergency and curfew.

The sources said that the FLN Political Bureau is expected to announce this position in the next few days. The FLN delegation is unlikely to participate in the bilateral meetings started on 9 October by the authorities with the various parties.

Most influential political parties in Algeria agree that "President Liamine Zeroual's intentions are sincere but the strategy of the regime's influential figures is to perpetuate the crisis because ending it would mean that many of them would be referred to justice." Officials of these parties believe that "the talk about dialogue and reconciliation is only a maneuver to gain more time." Some go so far as to say that the release of the FIS leaders "would not change the situation because the question that would impose itself then would be: with whom would the FIS be negotiating?"

Sources close to the FIS leadership in Algeria have stressed to AL-HAYAH that the "FIS will not negotiate with the enemies of Islam and of the constant national principles, who are still killing the oppressed people."

Some political observers believe that "a change of military leadership could isolate the regime internally and externally, something President Zeroual cannot do." That, however, is the condition being set by some of the major parties. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 12 'Islamic Militants'

NC1210162994 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algeria, Oct 12 (AFP)—Algerian security forces killed 12 Islamic militants in a series of operations, they said Wednesday [11 October] as the capital Algiers reeled from a morning of car bomb attacks and assassinations.

Four militants were killed in Djerma, near Batna in the east of the country, four in Sidi Moussa, three in Soumaa near Blida in southern Algeria and one at Sidi Hadjeres near Msila in the east in Tuesday's operations, officials said.

They said another militant was wounded and arrested near Tizi Ouzou, in Kabylie and two further arrests were made at Soumaa. A number of weapons were seized.

Official figures give as 53 the number of Islamic militants killed by security forces since the beginning of October.

During that period Islamic groups are blamed for the murders of several civilians, including two French nationals and a South Korean.

Interior Ministry Issues Statement on Explosions

LD1210192594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities in a statement issued today described the series of operations by booby-trapped vehicles that targeted the unversity establishments as a criminal act, and reaffirmed its determination to continue combating terrorism. The Interior Ministry's statement pointed out that these criminal acts were committed against establishments where Algerian youth were receiving their education and knowledge. These acts show that the target of the terrorists is the Algerian people and that their main target is to destroy everything that Algeria has achieved. The Interior Ministry's statement said that the failure of the threats that aim at striking at the people's gains confirm that the Algerian people's cooperation with and support for the actions of the national security forces is regarded as being the end of terrorism in our country.

A statement by the security departments today said that one of the main members of the group that manufactured the bombs which exploded today in various parts of the capital city has been arrested by the security forces. The security departments announced also that a terrorist met his death this morning by the bomb he was about to plant at the Souk Fellah in the Garidi district in Koubah in Algiers.

The terrorist group behind this operation was made up of three persons who were chased by the police, who managed to put an end to them.

The security departments also announced today that Mr. Lahcene Bensaadallah, deputy chairman of the Guidance and Reform Society, was assassinated this morning outside his house in the Badr quarter in Algiers. Mr. Bensaadallah was head of the magazine published by the Guidance and Reform Society, from which most of the leaders of HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] organization, led by Mahfoud Nahnah, emerged. The security departments announced today also that the head of the Daewoo car company in Algiers, Kang Tae-hyun, 56 years old, was assassinated this morning in Algiers in the Borj Elbahri, Bourmedas. The victim was fired on by an armed terrorist group when he was about to buy newspapers from a kiosk near his house.

Details Provided on Car Bombings

LD1210130394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several booby-trapped cars exploded in Algiers and its suburbs this morning. One of these explosions occurred near Algiers Central University. The explosions did not result in any casualties. Over to Wahiba Haouane:

[Haouane] A Fiat Uno car exploded this morning outside the gate of Algiers Central University. The explosion occurred at 0800 [0700 GMT] and the car was parked some 30 meters away from the gate. Fortunately, not many students were gathered outside the entrance. [passage omitted]

The only casualty of the explosion was a girl who is being treated at Mustapha Pacha Hospital. The doctors have said that her injuries are minor and that her life is not in danger. [video shows girl with wounds to side of face]

At the same time, the explosion of another booby-trapped car disturbed the peace of the campus for girls in Ben Aknoun [Algiers]. The Daewoo car exploded at about 0800 but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Another booby-trapped car was planted outside the gasoline station in Birkhadem [Algiers suburb], situated near the National Milk Office. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused by this explosion. We have also learned that a car exploded in El Biar [Algiers district] near the Ministry of Justice. One person was injured in the explosion which caused no damage.

At Hai Gueridi [in Algiers], the security forces this morning chased and killed two terrorists who had fled away from a booby-trapped car. The third was killed inside the same booby-trapped car which exploded outside the commercial district. [video shows wounded girl in hospital and four burned cars]

Two Arrested

LD1210190094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced that 12 terrorists were killed and three others arrested yesterday. An injured terrorist was arrested in Tizi Ouzou. Four terrorists were killed near Batna, four others were killed in the wilaya of Blida, and three terrorists were killed in Soumaa. Weapons and ammunition were recovered. Two terrorists responsible for making the bombs used in the booby-trapped cars that exploded in Algiers and Tizi Ouzou were arrested in Hussein Dey [Algiers district] today.

Guidance, Reform Association Leader Assassinated

LD1210124694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security authorities have announced that Mr. Lahcen Bensaadallah, second deputy chairman of the Guidance and Reform [Irshad wa'l Islah] Association [linked to] HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], was assassinated outside his home in Hai El Badr [estate in Algiers] this morning. The victim was the son of a [liberation war] martyr and had five children.

Return of Constitutional National Rally Announced

LD1110170894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Saadi, leader of the Boumedienist National Front, held a news conference on 10 October at the Club of Artists and Journalists in Algiers. During the news conference, he announced the official return of the Constitutional National Rally [al-Tajammu' al-Watani al-Dusturi] to the political scene. Saadi said that the return of the Rally to the national scene after one year of silence was aimed at defending and preserving the Constitution.

Regarding the reasons behind the decision of the Constitutional National Rally to resume its political activities at this very moment, Boumedienist Patriotic Front President Saadi had this to say to our colleague Hamza Wahib:

[Begin Saadi recording] We have recently noticed that the Constitution is being somewhat flouted, since some people are calling into question Article 2 and others Article 3. Therefore, we said to ourselves that, since we are the defenders of the Constitution—although every Algerian is a defender of the Constitution, but in our case we carry that name and we are honored by it—we returned to the political scene to try and defend the Constitution as a whole. We have no other demands. So the reason behind our return to the political scene is only to defend this document. [end recording]

Presidency, Ettahadi Party Hold Talks

LD1210224594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The state presidency issued a communique today on yesterday's meeting between its representatives and a delegation of the Ettahadi movement [former Communist Party]. The representatives of the presidency reject the allegations and the value judgments made by Ettahadi, saying this reflects a lack of trust in the approach of the state to promote the national dialogue. Amal Lazib reports:

[Begin Lazib recording] Following the meeting between the two sides, Ettahadi said this fell only within the framework of contacts and should not be taken to mean that it is joining the political process of dialogue. Ettahadi said that the current dialogue was an attempt at achieving a compromise between a vision of a democratic society and a totalitarian system.

Asked by the representatives of the presidency to explain its position on the basic points of the dialogue and its framework, Ettahadi said it will make its position clear later. The presidency has expressed deep regret at the lack of understanding on the part of their interlocutors. The representatives of the presidency recalled the objectives the state will try to achieve during the transition period, that is, the consecration of democracy as an irreversible option in Algeria in conformity with our national values. The presidency recalled that the state is determined to end violence and terrorism.

The presidency stressed that a solution concentrated on security is not sufficient to settle a crisis whose essence is political. The settlement of this crisis should also involve the political parties. Finally, the representatives of the presidency took note of the position of Ettahadi to let them know about their position on the solution to the crisis. A date for another meeting between the two sides was agreed upon. [end recording]

Presidency Issues Statement on FFS Meeting

LD1110131194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Presidency today issued a statement on the meeting which took place yesterday between representatives of the presidency and a delegation of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. The statement said inter alia that in the framework of the continuation of the process of national dialogue at the bilateral level, an FFS delegation, led by [acting FFS Secretary General] Said Khelil, met with representatives of the State Presidency. The statement stressed that this meeting should be seen as a follow-up to the previous preparatory meeting held on 29 September.

On that day, the representatives of the State Presidency gave their reactions to the contents of the statement released by the FFS National Council, particularly with regard to the statements in which this council accused the state of preparing the dialogue unilaterally. In this respect, the representatives of the State Presidency recalled that apart from defining the framework and constants for that dialogue, the state president had indicated that all the issues open for discussion were left to the political parties to be freely assessed.

With regard to the same statement, the representatives of the State Presidency said that the criticisms made by the FFS against the agreement signed between Algeria and the International Monetary Fund were unfounded. They also suggested that the FFS send representatives to take part in a TV debate with state economists to discuss this agreement so as to allow public opinion to judge the arguments put forward by both sides.

The representatives of the State Presidency also handed the FFS representatives copies of all the statements which crowned the multilateral meetings and which clearly explained the position of the state and the draft agenda handed out to the parties which took part in those multilateral meetings. The representatives of the State Presidency gave additional clarifications on the position expressed by the state president, particularly with regard to the framework and the constants. They also asked the FFS representatives to express their position.

The statement added that the representatives of the State Presidency have been anxious to explain, since 29 September, that the agreement sought from the dialogue must be reached with all the political sides.

The presidency statement said that during the same meeting the FFS representatives adhered to the stance expressed by their national council on 22 September and commented on it. In particular, they stressed that they considered the constant framework for the dialogue was restrictive and should therefore be made flexible. They added that it is necessary to find new starting bases. They put forward their parameters for the dialogue and for settling the crisis as follows:

—Agreeing in the bilateral meetings on the constitutional principles.

—Defining the rules of the democratic practice for the transitional period and the elections.

—The multilateral meetings are to work toward consolidating the agreements resulting from the bilateral meetings.

—The bilateral meetings are to be equivalent to a sovereign national conference, and the powers of the state president are to be preserved.

—The sovereign national conference is to witness the signing of the agreement by each of the sides—the political parties, the authority, and the National People's Army.

—The sovereign national conference is to organize the transitional period, decide its duration, set up the democratic institutions for the transitional period, and announce the incompetence of the present institutions emanating from the national conference.

—The sovereign national conference, in consultation with all the economic operators, decides on the economic reforms which should be taken.

—The transitional government prepares for the elections, and all measures connected with the elections are subject to review by the sovereign national conference—the laws and electors' lists,

—Legislative elections are to be organized as a priority.

—The state president is to be the guarantor of the agreement emanating from the sovereign national conference.

—Other international mechanisms for the guarantees are to be laid down later.

—The agreement emanating from the multilateral meetings represents the minimum level of consensus among all the parties.

The presidency statement said: The presidency representatives have been keen since 29 September to clarify that the sought after agreement through the dialogue should be reached with all the political sides.

During this meeting on Sunday, 9 October, the representatives of the presidency and the FFS, respectively, insisted on clarifying their stances in connection with the framework of the dialogue which the state has defined.

The FFS representatives pointed out that the framework of the dialogue which the state has defined and described as nondiscussable or negotiable, was a restrictive framework. This means that accepting it [implies] accepting from the very beginning a consensus determined unilaterally. The FFS representatives, who maintain that this framework should be made flexible, also demanded that this framework be explained first of all.

The presidency representatives presented the following clarifications:

Concerning the constitution, it is the fundamental law chosen by the people in a referendum. Therefore, everyone should respect the constitution.

Concerning this point, the FFS representatives added, after stressing their respect for the constitution, that the present stage is exceptional, and that the constitutional institutions are non-existent.

The presidency representatives replied by saying that the aim of the dialogue, i.e., the return to the elections, is basically represented by enabling the Algerian people to elect their representatives in these institutions.

They also added that the exceptional nature of the present stage has dictated the need for the transitional period.

Concerning the laws, respect for the laws guarantees order.

The presidency statement also mentioned the abandonment of violence. This clarification imposes itself in view of the reality witnessed by the country at present.

Concerning the constants, these emanate from the constitution and the fundamental bases of democracy.

In view of these clarifications, the FFS representatives believed in the need for the existence of a new legitimacy, and that the constitution is a decisive document from which all forthcoming stages emanate.

They said that powers should be redistributed, because the present text has made the democratic process lead to the maintenance of the current situation, adding that the framework of the dialogue should be complete and extensive to the greatest extent. In this context, they demanded the widening of the concept of pluralism to include the cultural sphere.

The FFS representatives enquired about that status of the parties, pointing out that their aim is to reach a national consensus, and that additional clarifications on the framework and the constants should be offered.

The presidency representatives noted the views and stances of the FFS over this issue, and persistently pointed out that the dialogue should achieve the consensus among all the parties.

Concerning the FFS proposals, the presidency representatives demanded that the FFS representatives clarify more the contents of their proposals presented after the meeting on 29 September.

The FFS representatives, who affirmed that the issue was connected with their party's firm stance, added that the system of the transition period should be based on two pillars, i.e., democracy and constitutionality, and offered the following clarification:

Concerning the constitutional principles, the system of the transitional period is to be run as follows:

—By restricting the powers of the head of state so as to ensure the people's sovereignty; also, by maintaining the representative nature of those participating in the sovereign national conference. The choices of the political parties and social forces, etc., which will prepare for the sovereign national conference, will be the start of the transition toward people's representation.

—By dividing legislative and semi-legislative powers. It is from the sovereign national conference, which becomes the legislative body, that the executive authority emanates on the basis of the division of the powers and the establishment of links.

Concerning the democratic principles, agreement should be reached on the sovereign national conference, the transitional government, joint administration, the timetable for elections, and the democratic administration of the transitional period. This requires a political will to be expressed via a statement by the authority. The FFS believes that these principles can form a more acceptable framework.

Concerning guarantees, the FFS believes this pertains to assurances which the authorities and the national army should offer through the state president and minister of national defense; also, to multilateral measures for monitoring the transitional period on which agreement should be reached; and to international guarantees.

Concerning a question about the nature of international guarantees, the FFS representatives replied that foreign intervention is inconceivable, and added that Algerians should consult among themselves. They pointed out that FFS wants the international community to intervene with all its weight in favor of a democratic Algeria, as it did in South Africa.

The representatives of the presidency and the FFS considered it fruitful to continue to clarify their stances. They agreed to hold a new meeting for this purpose.

World Bank Grants Loans for Special Projects

$200 Million for Imports

LD0810204894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It has just been officially announced that the World Bank is granting Algeria a loan of about $200 million to pay for its imports. [passage omitted]

$100 Million for Toxic Waste Center

LD0910203194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The World Bank is allocating a loan of $100 million to Algeria for financing a center for the treatment of toxic waste. The offer was made at a meeting on the environment at El Mithak residence. The meeting included representatives of the World Bank and Algerian experts in environment and pollution. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Addresses Businessmen in Paris

LD1210102494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting yesterday at the French External Trade Center in Paris between Algerian employers and representatives of the National Council of French Employers [CNPF], Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour, who is leading the Algerian delegation, presented a report on the Algerian economy before dealing with its prospects based essentially on the recovery plan introduced by the government. Over to our correspondent in Paris Noureddine Bouziane who attended this meeting and who sent us the following dispatch:

[Begin Bouziane recording] Algerian Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour said at the meeting that he hopes to see the dinar become convertible before the end of next year. The Algerian official told a large number of French businessmen in Paris that converting the dinar into a hard currency is one of the terms of the new plan of economic reform which Algeria is going to negotiate with the IMF next spring.

Moreover, the Algerian finance minister indicated that Algeria intends to increase its oil output in the next few years and to double its gas production before the end of the century. Ahmed Benbitour added that the program of Mokdad Sifi's government depends on a strategy aimed at developing energy production in order to bring Algeria out of its economic crisis. He renewed the call to foreign companies to invest in the oil and gas sector. At the political level, the finance minister, who reportedly came to Paris to reassure France and the western partners, said that the government is capable of protecting foreign nationals and called on the latter not to take any risks by travelling in the country without informing the authorities concerned.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Algerian minister's visit to France is also within the framework of the moves Algeria is making ahead of the resumption of talks with the Paris Club on the rescheduling of some of Algeria's debts. Observers believe that since Algeria recently received a satisfactory response from the IMF and the World Bank in Madrid, there will be no obstacles to prevent Algeria in principle from obtaining new loans in the near future. [end recording]

[Announcer] Officials at the Finance Ministry said that this meeting will enable the Algerian delegation to clarify to the French partners the new forms of investment in Algeria and the opportunities available in all sectors of the economic activity. The same sources added that the subject of privatization was not included as a main item of the agenda.

Work Begins on Maghreb-Europe Gas Pipeline

LD1110162294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Work on the Algerian part, or what is known as the western section, of the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline got under way today in Tlemcen, in the presence of the Algerian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Moroccan energy ministers. Details on the subject with this dispatch from our Tlemcen station:

[Correspondent Aissa Benhachem] The green light was given this morning to the execution of the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline project in the area of Kasdir in Naama Province, which is adjacent to Tlemcen Province. Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and industry, and his Spanish, Portuguese, and Moroccan counterparts, Messrs. Juan Manuel [Eguiagaray], Mira Amaral, and Abdellatif Guerraoui arrived at Zenata airport this morning. The ceremony was attended by Sonatrach Director General Abdelhak Bouhafs, Tlemcen Governor Arar Djilali, and Naama Governor Bouallali Seddik.

It is worth mentioning that the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline is 1,350 km long, 530 km of which traverse Algerian territory, beginning at Hassi R'mel and cutting through the provinces of Laghouat, El Bayadh, and Naama. The pipeline then crosses Moroccan territory before going to Spain via the strait of Gibraltar and then to Portugal and finally France.

The overall cost of this project has been estimated at $800 million. The U.S. company Bechtel and the Algerian company Cosider will be laying the pipeline on Algerian territory. This huge project is likely to reinforce local development in all the steppe regions and will help solve the problem of the gas crisis in these areas. It is worth noting that Algeria has already built a similar pipeline going through Tunisia that supplies Italy with natural gas.

This is Aissa Benhachem from Tlemcen station.

Egypt

Mubarak Expresses Hope for 'True' Arab Solidarity

NC1210114894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Oct 94

["Exclusive" statement by President Husni Mubarak to unidentified Cairo radio correspondents; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] President Mubarak: This is Egyptian radio. We congratulate Your Excellency on the 13th anniversary of your assumption of power. After the great achievements that the entire Egyptian people have witnessed, we have high hopes and ambitions in further progress and democracy. How does President Mubarak envision the Egypt of the future?

[Mubarak] To discuss this subject, we have to remember where we began. I consider the 13 years a period of hard labor. Of course, I do not mean I worked alone, all the people were involved. I am looking forward to making further progress and to overcoming our many problems. Now you hear problems about towns, villages, and so on. Of course we have many problems, but we are distributing our capabilities according to yearly plans, and we are trying to improve things. We, God willing, hope for further progress, more production, a higher standard of living, and a better atmosphere. We also hope that our parties will consider the fact that this country has interests and that we must not give in to any views coming from abroad.

[Correspondent] What are President Mubarak's hopes for the future at the Arab level?

[Mubarak] I hope there will be accord and true solidarity in the Arab nation. I hope that we will end our ambitions—each country has ambitions on its neighbor. I hope differences will end and so will the mentality of domination and hegemony. May God guide the Arab world onto the right path so that we can live a better life.

Mubarak Discusses Situation Wtih Gulf Leaders

Receives Call From Kuwaiti Amir

NC1210185094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who briefed him on the latest developments in the situation. Shaykh al-Sabah exchanged views with the president on the tense situation on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

Views Activity With Yemen's Salih

NC1310063694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. They discussed the deteriorating situation in the Arabian Gulf resulting from the Iraqi troop buildup on the border with the State of Kuwait.

Reportage on Portuguese President Soares Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC1110141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Portuguese President Mario Soares and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a three-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Durao Barroso, who will arrive in Cairo from Portugal later today, will join the delegation accompanying the Portuguese president. [passage omitted]

Begins Closed Meeting With Mubarak

NC1110191494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Portuguese President Mario Soares began a closed meeting in the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this evening.

The talks will cover issues of mutual interest, ways to consolidate cooperation in the economic and tourism fields, expanding cooperation among Mediterranean states, and bolstering Egypt's ties with the European Union.

The talks will also cover the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the situation in North Africa and the Gulf.

Talks on Ties Resumed

NC1210095494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Portuguese President Mario Soarez resumed their talks at the Presidential Palace this morning. They are discussing issues of mutual concern and reviewing the Middle East situation, the peace process, Gulf developments, and bilateral relations. The two presidents will also discuss ways to promote economic relations and expand trade between the two countries.

Joint News Conference Held

NC1210134394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that the viewpoints of Egypt and Portugal toward many world issues, especially the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East and stability in the Mediterranean, are identical.

In a joint news conference with Portuguese President Mario Soares at the end of their talks this morning, President Mubarak said the talks dealt with ways to boost relations between Egypt and Portugal.

At the beginning of the news conference, the Portuguese president expressed his deep thanks for the opportunity to visit Egypt. He said the talks were held in a cordial and warm atmosphere.

He said his talks with President Mubarak dealt with a number of international issues of mutual concern and with economic, political, and cultural relations between the two countries. He underscored the depth of these ties.

President Soares said his current visit to Egypt and President Mubarak's visit to Portugal two years ago, which was a great success, must be linked. He hoped his visit would strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He said a series of issues, including the situation in the Mediterranean, was reviewed. He said although Portugal is not a Mediterranean country from a geographic point of view, it is politically part of the region, hence its interest in the region's issues.

The Portuguese president said: I carefully listened to your analysis of all subjects we discussed concerning the situation in the Arab world, where we notice many moves and new developments. We attach great importance to reviewing these issues. It is known that Egypt should play a role, and it has so far played an extremely important role in this area. We also attach great importance to the stability of the region.

He said: Once again I thank you, Mr. President, for your good hospitality.

President Soares then began answering journalists' questions. Asked about his talks with President Mubarak, especially the impressions and expectations concerning the embargo against Iraq and the Arab world's fears that what happened in the Gulf may be repeated, the Portuguese president said: Naturally, we reviewed the issues of the Arab world and the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

He added: We took into consideration the importance of this issue, and President Mubarak and I are in agreement. We have noticed that tension had escalated at some point and that it is now decreasing; but we are still worried.

He added: As far as Portugal's position is concerned—and I am now speaking as President of Portugal—we support all relevant UN resolutions.

The Portuguese president added: We also reviewed other issues, including the situation in Algeria, which is a cause for our concern. We also reviewed all issues concerning the Mediterranean region, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and Israel. We can describe our exchange as productive and constructive.

Commenting, President Mubarak said the recent escalation between Iraq and Kuwait is very serious and reminds us of the pre-Gulf war period. If we take a quick look at the Gulf war developments, we can say that the primary victim was the Iraqi people, and this was a result of the miscalculations that led to the Gulf war.

He added: Now, I hope the Iraqi leadership—and I repeat this, I had said the same thing before the Gulf war—will withdraw the Iraqi forces away from Kuwait to preserve the life and standard of living of the genuine Iraqi people.

President Mubarak said that both Kuwait and Iraq are Arab countries and that it was the incorrect assessment of the Iraqi leadership which caused the problems that have shaken the Arab world. He added: I am afraid that the situation might be further aggravated in the near future. I am warning against this as I did before the Gulf war. But they never listened to me. My assessments are based on my experience and my exchanges with the world leaders.

President Mubarak noted that this is a grave situation which will not end unless Iraq withdraws its forces far from the Kuwaiti border to avoid any deterioration in the situation.

President Mubarak voiced apprehension that the situation might become complicated, as happened before when they did not heed his advice. He noted: I urge the Iraqi leadership to keep away from the Kuwaiti border to safeguard the lives of the Iraqi people.

The president added: We will be a bad example before the world when an Arab state destroys another Arab state and the Arab nation is bleeding. President Mubarak asked: Was the Arab nation in this condition before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait?

He noted that formerly the only inter-Arab dispute was between Syria and Iraq but the occupation of Kuwait further complicated the situation, fragmented the Arab world, and created numerous grudges and problems in the Arab world.

The president added: To safeguard our Arab existence, we urge our Iraqi brothers to withdraw their forces. It will not humiliate them to do so. I call on the Iraqi president to withdraw his forces far from the border to reassure the Kuwaitis and protect his own people. We are all seeking to ensure these nations' good. We seek nothing for ourselves. Hence I declare: Let's forget personal glory and withdraw the forces for the good of the Iraqi people themselves.

Asked about Egypt's stance regarding the new alliance to confront the Gulf crisis in case the situation escalates, President Mubarak, who contacted U.S. President Clinton, the Saudi monarch, the amir of Kuwait, and other leaders in the past few days, answered: It is not a question of Egypt's stance regarding the alliance. The issue is Egypt's stance on aggression. Egypt does not condone any Arab country's aggression against another and does not approve the principle of occupation by force. Our position is clear and has not changed. This is why we urge our Iraqi brothers to withdraw their forces and stay away from Kuwait.

President Mubarak pointed out that the Iraqi president himself used to declare that he was the defender of the Arab world's eastern gate and therefore it is unreasonable for him to come now and occupy an Arab country. He pointed out that this has complicated the Arab situation and fragmented the Arabs.

President Mubarak said: Our position is clear. We oppose occupation by force in any form. We constantly urge respect for borders and UN Security Council resolutions.

Asked about his recent communications with Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat in connection with the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, the existing obstacles, and the likely ideas that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might be carrying with him on his current tour, President Mubarak said: You are aware of the incident that occurred between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Jerusalem in the past few days. Mr. Rabin telephoned me about the incident which apparently involved the abduction of an Israeli soldier by some Palestinians. There are some Palestinians, and non-Palestinians too, who oppose the peace operation. Some people have a stake in obstructing it. Rabin called me and said he had communicated with 'Arafat to resolve the Israeli soldier's abduction and the related violence. I telephoned President 'Arafat and discussed the issue with him to avoid further complications and to facilitate the implementation of the remaining clauses of the Declaration of Principles.

President Mubarak noted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will come to Egypt on Friday and that they will discuss these matters. He added that Christopher as well will arrive on Friday. We will discuss with him all the obstacles, he said; adding: Christopher will meet with me and 'Arafat. We will see what the problems are and try to help solve them. He added: Christopher will brief me on what happened in the region during his tour. Of course the talks will cover the issue of Iraq and Kuwait. We are maintaining a distinct, unchangeable course to which we have been committed since the problem started.

Asked by the PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY whether they discussed the issue of Eastern Timor and the Indonesian occupation of the island despite the UN resolutions of the past 20 years, President Soares said: Of course. I briefed President Mubarak on Portugal's stand on Eastern Timor and tried to explain the grounds for that stand. Of course we support the Timorese people's right to self determination.

President Mubarak said: I listened to President Soares' analysis of the problem and of Portugal's stand on it. To make a sound judgment on the issue, I have to hear Indonesia's view on the matter as well.

Asked by Egyptian television what he wishes to say to the Egyptian people at the beginning of a new year of his rule, Mubarak said: I wish the Egyptian people a good year in which they can raise their standard of living, increase their productivity, and work harder. I assure them that I am doing my utmost in that field. May God guide our steps to success.

For his part, President Soares said: I had no idea that you were celebrating the anniversary of your inauguration. It's my mistake; it probably slipped my mind. I apologize. However, he added, I seize this opportunity to congratulate you and wish you and your friendly people success.

President Mubarak remarked: What we are celebrating is the presence of the Portuguese president here with us.

The Portuguese radio asked President Mubarak about fundamentalism and whether it poses a threat to Europe. President Mubarak replied: If there is any threat to Europe, it is not posed by Islamic fundamentalism, but rather by criminal operations that have no relation whatsoever to religion; they should not be associated with religion. But if Europe gives shelter to these elements, future European stability will be at stake.

President Mubarak continued: We know that several European states, which I will not name, are harboring many elements. This is where the threat lies. We warned a certain state once that they would pay dearly if they continued to support and harbor these elements, but they did not listen.

Commenting on this point, the Portuguese president said: I would like to add a point to the question that assumes that Europe is concentrated in a specific spot of the world. We do not live in a purely European world; we live in the middle of a global civilization far wider than Europe. As Mr. President remarked, these things have nothing to do with religion. We respect and should respect all religions. This is our viewpoint; all religions must coexist in peace and mutual respect.

President Mario Soares remarked that this issue is connected with some forms of violent acts, particularly in Mediterranean countries, adding: This causes us some worry and concern because we wish to have peace and stability in the Mediterranean. We believe that social and economic reform measures will help us to surmount these obstacles.

President Mubarak commented: I wish to add something to Mr. Soares' remarks. Criminal operations are not found in the Middle East alone. They are also found in far away places. If the violence has not become apparent in certain countries, it will do so in time and the criminal actions will be perpetrated by certain criminal elements currently given asylum by some of the countries in question.

Asked how he envisages the Middle East's future in light of President Saddam Husayn's second threat to the region, President Mubarak said: Only God knows.

Asked what his views are about Egypt's future, President Mubarak remarked: Before we speak of this, we must remember where we used to be and where we are now. I regard the past 13 years as 13 years of hard labor. Of course I was not working alone. The whole nation was working with me. I look forward to further progress.

President Mubarak added: We have many problems. We are receiving reports about new problems in our towns and villages. However, we distribute our resources according to the plan every year and try to repair the services that we have. We hope that there will be progress, God willing, and that we will increase our production and improve our people's living conditions. I hope the general atmosphere will improve and that our political parties will come to understand that they must protect the country's interests and must not be swayed by any opinions dictated to them by parties abroad.

Musa, Counterpart Discuss Ties

NC1210164994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1534 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian-Portuguese talks were held in the Foreign Ministry headquarters this evening. The talks were cochaired by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Portuguese counterpart Jose Durao Barroso.

The meeting discussed ways to develop bilateral ties in the various fields, particularly economics.

Minister Musa later stated that he and his Portuguese counterpart had discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, developments in the Middle East peace process, and cooperation among Mediterranean states.

Durao Barroso said that the talks focused primarily on the situation in the Middle East, pointing out that he exchanged views with Musa on a number of issues of mutual interest.

He added that the Mediterranean foreign ministers will hold a meeting early next year after the experts meeting that will be held in Portugal in December. He reiterated his country's support for cooperation among Mediterranean states.

He noted that the Mediterranean states' meeting in Alexandria last July was a good gesture to establish cooperation and open dialogue among these states.

Commenting on the present situation in the Gulf region, the Portuguese foreign minister hoped the problem would be settled. He expressed hopes Iraq will accept all the UN Security Council resolutions.

Mubarak Warns on Fundamentalists

LD1210224494 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has blamed the part played by European countries in the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, and warned that if nothing is done about it there may be a very high price to pay. He was speaking during his meeting with President Mario Soares. Our correspondent Vitor Goncalves reports:

[Goncalves] [passage omitted] In Egypt there is the problem of fundamentalism which, Mubarak said, is supported by certain European countries:

[Begin Mubarak recording in Arabic fading into Portuguese translation] We all know that there are fundamentalists in European countries. There is no need to name the countries in question. And that is where the danger lies. I once warned the European governments that they will pay very dearly if they continue to support these criminals. But no one would listen. [end recording]

Reportage on PRC State Council Delegation Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC1010053494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—A PRC State Council delegation led by Vice Premier of the State Council Zhu Rongji arrived in Cairo this evening on a five-day visit during which the delegation members will hold talks with Egyptian officials on strengthening bilateral relations.

In an arrival statement, the PRC official said that he will meet with a number of Egyptian officials to discuss issues of common concern. He said that he is anxious to see the great achievements made by the Egyptian people under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak in the fields of construction and economic development. He voiced his hope that the visit will further strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the PRC and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Discussed With Mubarak

NC1110181194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak received Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji in the presidential office in Heliopolis this afternoon. Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, the deputy prime minister and minister of planning, attended the meeting.

The Chinese guest later stated that he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from the Chinese president and prime minister. He added that they exchanged views on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

The Chinese vice premier added that President Mubarak expressed his appreciation of the Chinese people and leaders and his support for many of the major Chinese stands. He added that President Mubarak is highly interested in developing and enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and that he showed interest in China's participation in the establishment of a free trade zone.

The Chinese official said that he expressed China's admiration of the great accomplishments the Egyptian people in development and the economy under his excellency's leadership. He added that his country wishes to enhance and develop economic cooperation between the two countries. He also said that he will continue his talks in Egypt and that delegations will be sent to Egypt to complete consultations over projects on which Egypt and China can cooperate. He pointed out that China and Egypt will establish ties in the fiscal, financial, and other fields, adding that the president expressed satisfaction at this planned measure and stressed that steps should be taken in that direction within a year.

Dr. al-Janzuri said that the two sides discussed the setting up of an free industrial zone. He noted that the two sides have several other joint projects that primarily aim to promote exports and that there is an agreement in principle to set up joint branches of the Egyptian National Bank in Cairo and Beijing. [passage omitted]

Zhu Comments on Talks

NC1110201994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji has stressed that his talks with Egyptian officials were fruitful and constructive, adding that during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak he reviewed progress in relations between the two countries.

In a news conference, the Chinese official noted that during his talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of ministers in charge of economic affairs they had exchanged views on ways to consolidate the developing bilateral relations as well as issues of common interest. The talks, he added, showed an identity of views between the two countries. He pointed out that he had met with bankers, financiers, and businessmen to explore ways to promote the trade and economic ties between the two countries, which is the main purpose of his current visit to Egypt. The two sides shared a desire to further develop bilateral cooperation and each side made some proposals which will be studied later on, he added.

Zhu Rongji expressed happiness at the progress being made in the Middle East peace process, referring to the positive results resulting in the signing of the self-rule agreement between Israel and Palestine and the results made on the Jordanian-Israeli track. He hoped that there will be success on the other tracks.

On the current tension on the borders between Iraq and Kuwait, he emphasized that China always calls for resolving problems in the Gulf region on the basis of the Security Council resolutions, negotiations, and dialogue in order to reach peaceful solutions satisfactory to all parties. In this regard, he praised Egypt's role in the region and added that his country is ready to join Egypt and the other countries that are exerting constant efforts to achieve security and stability. He pointed out that his country had extended two loans worth approximately $10 million for the reconstruction of Palestine and is now conducting feasibility studies with the Palestinian side to build the necessary infrastructure projects.

On China's political role in the new world order, the Chinese official said that despite the doubling of its gross national product and the rise in the standard of living in China, many Chinese still live under the poverty line and China still has much work to develop its national economy. He expressed his (?country's) readiness to establish a world order based on a [words indistinct], stable, and logical foundations. He pointed out that the rate of economic growth in China stands at 13 percent at present, compared to 9.3 in 1979, adding that his country is now taking the necessary measures to reduce this relatively high rate. He added: Inflation reached 13 percent last year and we expect it to reach 15 percent this year, which will affect the growth rates. This, he added, is due to the price liberalization policy resulting from reforms in the economic structure.

Zhu Rongji explained that this year China liberalized the prices of some products [words indistinct] agricultural products and basic commodities, and this policy is bound to increase the inflation rate. He added that the economic reform process and the price liberalization policy are expected to be completed this year. He expressed confidence that once this process is completed, the inflation rate will not exceed 10 percent.

The Chinese official noted that there is another kind of unemployment in China, where there is a manpower surplus in the countryside that wishes to migrate to urban communities. He added: We are now trying to develop rural projects and increase the supplier prices of agricultural products to encourage farmers to produce. Some positive results have been achieved in this regard.

On the situation in the Korean peninsula, the Chinese official stressed that the problem did not and will not reach a dead end. Although the negotiations between North Korea and the United States are facing difficulties, some progress has been made in terms of monitoring the nuclear installations. The Chinese official cited the need to free the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons and hoped that the parties concerned will reach a just and comprehensive solution through dialogue and consultations.

Musa Comments on Palestinian-Israeli Talks, Iraq

NC1210170594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has voiced hope that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on elections for a Palestinian legislative council in the West Bank and Gaza will resume next week.

In a statement today, Musa said these elections must be held as soon as possible, adding: I cannot specify whether this should happen this year or early in 1995.

The foreign minister reported that President Husni Mubarak had communicated with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in an effort to overcome the existing hurdles. Musa said these high levels contacts are still going on.

Commenting on reports circulated today that the Iraqi forces are moving toward the Kuwaiti border, Musa said he is not sure of that.

Asked what stance Egypt would adopt if the United States made a military strike against Iraq, 'Amr Musa said he hoped that the Iraqi forces will withdraw. He asserted that this crisis will end if Iraq withdraws.

The foreign minister said such Iraqi actions must not be repeated.

In reply to a question about the fate of the peace operation, Musa said he does not believe that the peace process is stumbling. He pointed out that Egypt's role is to follow up the peace talks and intervene when necessary to help in whatever way it can. He declared that the important thing is to avoid any hindrances and delays.

Opposition Paper Notes Silence on Iraqi Sanctions

NC1210112994 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 8 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri: "The Bitter Injustice"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 1 million Iraqis have fallen victim to the starvation caused by the blockade against the Iraq of Arabism and glory.

More than 1 million people have died cursing and screaming against injustice and appealing for help from the Arab nation, which deafened its ears and let its rulers exercise their lust for revenge.

Where shall we escape from God the almighty? What shall we say to our sons? And with what faces shall we meet our brothers when the day for meeting comes?

Shall we tell them that we were frightened and therefore shut our mouths? Shall we tell them that we discovered that Arabism was merely a slogan without essence? Or are we convinced that nothing protects Kuwait other than the annihilation of 18 million Iraqis, the population of Iraq?

How tragic for us to remain spectators, seeing with our eyes a people dying of starvation and a fraternal country vanishing into thin air.

The only beneficiary from all of this is the Zionist enemy, nobody else. Do we accept the killing of the brothers for the sake of enemies?

The strength of this nation lies in its unity and solidarity. Those who are working for its disintegration are deliberately serving all Israeli objectives in the region.

Sooner or later, we are sure that the bitter humiliation imposed on us will ignite fire in our souls, pushing us to break all shackles, and victory will be ours, God willing.

Commentary Urges Iraqi People To Confront Regime

NC1210162794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Iraqi Regime's Ruler Continues His Conspiracies Against His People and Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi regime is making another miscalculation, something to which it has grown accustomed since it provoked a crisis by occupying Kuwait. The occupation had many repercussions, not least of which was a multibillion dollar loss suffered by the region as a result of an insane war which Iraq forced the international forces to wage. Also, the Arabs in general, and the Iraqis in particular, lost control of their oil wealth. The oil revenue was once a major component of Iraq's budget and was the chief reason the Iraqi dinar was worth $3. The situation is very different today with the U.S. dollar equal to 700 Iraqi dinars as a consequence of the mistaken adventures conducted by the Iraqi regime's head.

Despite the deteriorating economic situation in Iraq—the subject matter of constant discussion by international television stations and news agencies—the Iraqi president is repeating his adventures and moving his forces toward the Kuwaiti border. We do not think he is unaware of his mistaken adventures. The Iraqi people, blighted by their leadership's miscalculations, have tasted the bitter fruit as a consequence and are paying a very high price.

Political analysts in various capitals wonder: What does the Iraqi regime seek to attain by massing troops on the Kuwaiti border and then withdrawing them to their barracks without firing a shot against Kuwait? Does the Iraqi president intend to terrorize the Kuwaiti people? We do not think so. He must fully realize that Kuwait today is totally different from the country he occupied in 1990, particularly as the world has unanimously demonstrated that it will back Kuwait against any foreign assault.

Perhaps Iraq's ruler should reread the U.S. assurances, given under former President Bush and President Clinton, that the U.S. Administration considers itself responsible for Kuwait's safety because of its oil wells which the world powers seek to defend.

That is why we, and the Iraqi public, wonder about the Iraqi president's aim in mobilizing Iraqi troops on the Kuwait border. Analysts have different explanations. Some believe it is an miscalculated adventure, the consequences of which the Iraqi regime will bear. However, Arab political analysts believe that the new conspiracy has been very well calculated by the head of the Iraqi regime.

Doubtlessly he remembers the missile attack that badly damaged the Iraqi infrastructure simply because he planned an attack to assassinate former President Bush during his visit to Kuwait. Today he resumes his regional adventures but this time he is simply parading. He does not intend to occupy Kuwait again as international news agencies claim. The aim is clear and definite: It is an open invitation to the world powers to strike Iraq's Army and people again, after several years of effort by the Iraqi people to rebuild their lives despite the hardships they face at home and abroad.

No one can dispute our view that a strong smell of agent activity wafts from the direction of the Iraqi regime's current adventures in the Gulf. If the Iraqi Army and people learned of the commissions which their regime obtains from international arms exporters, they would realize the truth behind the great conspiracy cooked up by their leadership before they burn in the fire of the missile bombardment that news agencies are now saying is immiment in response to the Iraqi regime's violations of the UN resolutions it accepted in 1991.

Will the Iraqi people and Army act and confront those who conspire against them at home before the count of Iraqi casualties rises and before the blockade becomes tighter for a crime they were never responsible for?

Palestinians Turned Back Due to Gaza Closure

NC1210205394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct—Twenty-six Palestinian passengers who arrived at Cairo airport this evening on their way to the Gaza Strip by way of the Rafah border point were returned to the Algerian airliner that brought them from Algiers. The Palestinian passengers, most of them women and children, left Algiers unaware of the Israeli decision to close the Fatah border terminal. On their arrival at Cairo airport, they were denied entry by the airport authorities and were returned to their plane.

Albanian Housing Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0910101394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Albanian Minister of Construction, Housing and Territory Organization Ilir Spiro Manushi arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit that will last for several days.

While in Cairo, the Albanian minister will hold talks with Housing Minister Engineer Salah Hasaballah on bolstering cooperation, exchanging expertise in economic housing, and getting acquainted with the Egyptian new communities experience.

UAE President Sends Message to Mubarak

NC1110125594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message today from United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan dealing with bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

UAE Ambassador Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahmud, who delivered the message, said that it was part of President Mubarak's and Shaykh Zayid's policy of consulting over all issues of interest to their countries and the region.

He added that President Mubarak asked him to convey a message of thanks to his brother Shaykh Zayid, saying at the same time that consultations will continue over all matters connected with the two countries' relations and Arab and regional issues.

The ambassador concluded his remarks by emphasizing that the fraternal and profound ties between Egypt and the UAE necessitate continuous consultation.

Abu-Ghazalah Sees Israel as 'Real Threat'

MM1210144294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In his first public appearance since he was stripped of his post as an assistant to the president of the republic in Egypt two years ago, Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah warned of the Israel threat to the Egyptian border. He vehemently attacked the peace process in the Middle East, especially the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah said in a seminar organized by the Lions Club in Heliopolis that Israel poses the real threat to Egyptian national security, especially as it has gathered a large number of Jews from all over the world, increasing its population. He pointed out that Israel could resort to threatening its neighbors to meet its population's needs.

He said that Israel granted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his partners the areas of Gaza and Jericho in order to turn them into two large detention centers for the Palestinians, whom Israeli jails cannot accommodate.

He stressed the difficulty of establishing a real peace in the region without the removal of Israel's weapons of mass destruction, Israel's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and its subjection to inspection by the international agency.

He added that the water problem will remain the main obstacle to the region's stability. He said: It will detonate problems among Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority in the near future. He expects a confrontation to erupt in the future among Syria, Iraq, and Turkey as a result of the water.

Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah ruled out a repetition of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He expressed his belief that the present escalation is aimed at demonstrating Saddam's existence on the Arab scene or diverting the Iraqi people's attention from their problems, or else it is a result of Russia's, China's, and France's sympathy with the Iraqi people.

He attributed the U.S. decision to leave Saddam Husayn in power to the lack of a powerful figure to control the reins of power in Iraq.

He expects the emergence of a new superpower in the face of the United States comprising China with its human and economic influence, united Europe, and Russia after its economic problems end.

He described the new world order as being in the stage of development, due to the absence of a superpower equal to the United States.

On Sudanese-Egyptian relations and the dispute over the border triangle in Hala'ib, Field Marshal Abu-Ghazalah said that Hala'ib is 100-percent Egyptian territory, but it needs major development in order to develop the spirit of belonging among its population.

He warned of the danger of the Middle Eastern market idea which Israel is promoting in the region. He urged work to set up an Arab common market to achieve minimum Arab economic integration. Abu-Ghazalah denounced the Arab states that signed the documents for joining the GATT without thorough study of its economic reality and the challenge imposed by the GATT. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Gulf

LD1210180094 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 12 Oct (Jamahiriyah News Agency)— A telephone contact took place between the leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak exchanged, during this conversation view points on the developments in the situation of the Arab Gulf and international reactions towards the situation in the region and their effects.

GPC Foreign Liaison Secretary Addresses UN

LD1210203594 Tripoli JANA in English 1704 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 12 Oct, Jamahiriyah News Agency—During his address to the 49th session of the U.N. General Assembly, 'Umar al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee [GPC] for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, re-confirmed that Libya has shown sincere readiness to cooperate in establishing the facts in the so-called Lockerbie case. He emphasized that Libya has taken all the steps which have been requested in line with the U.N charter and international law, which does not undermine Libyan sovereignty.

In his speech the secretary went on to say that despite the pressure exerted on the Security Council to adopt Resolution 731, Libya announced its total readiness to cooperate effectively to implement it. Libya has also taken practical steps to this effect. They were welcomed by numerous organisations, including the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Non-Aligned Movement. He indicated that the three Western states did not respond to the initiatives calling for dialogue and discussion and manipulated the so-called Security Council to pass unfair and false resolutions to tighten the unfair sanctions against Libya.

The secretary revealed that the aim of the Western states in raising the so-called Lockerbie case is not to establish the facts or the intricacies involved in the case but is aimed at the realisation of pre-determined political goals. Libya has denounced all forms of international terrorism and announced its readiness to abide by any measures taken by the international community to combat this evil.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-Operation emphasised that Libya had made every effort to settle the dispute. It agreed to the holding of the trial of the two suspects, despite the fact that this issue is already settled in accordance with the Montreal Convention of 1971, which gives Libya the right to try them. But Britain's and America's refusal to respect this treaty pushed Libya to consider other alternatives.

The secretary confirmed that Libya does not object to the suspects standing trial but insists that the trial should be fair, just and free from any sentimental or media influences. All the guarantees have to be ensured in line with the rules of legitimacy and the principles of international law which Libya has Proved it is committed to upholding and implementing. The International Court of Justice proved that Libya has respected international law and implemented the ruling of the International Court of Justice in a constructive frame of mind.

This has been welcomed and appreciated by the Security Council and by the U.N. secretary general who pointed out that this proved Libya's respect for and commitment to international legitimacy.

The secretary called on the U.N. General Assembly to show respect for Libya's initiatives and for its enlightened response in handling the crisis with Western states. This response has been welcomed by various regional and international organisations.

'Umar al-Muntasir asked the Security Council to review the unfair sanctions imposed on Libya which have caused hundreds of deaths as a result of aircraft and road accidents and the delays in transporting the sick for treatment abroad in addition to other economic damages. He reiterated Libya's call for the colonialist states which took part in the Second World War to co-operate in removing the mines planted on Libyan territory and to provide the necessary information on their location in addition to technical assistance and compensation arising from W.W.2 damages.

The secretary announced that Libya will seek, through the international organisation and other international arenas, to force the colonialist states to offer suitable compensation for their plunder of the wealth of other countries. He called for the adoption of a historical resolution to denounce colonialism and force the colonialist states to compensate the countries which they occupied to ensure that colonialisation will never be repeated, and that the powerful shall never return to extorting and oppressing the weak.

He expressed Libya's appreciation of the efforts aimed at enhancing peace and co-operation in the Mediterranean area and expressed Libya's satisfaction at the initiatives towards the strengthening of economic, social, cultural and environmental co- operation. He also urged the adoption of adequate measures to remove the elements of tension in the area, headed by the withdrawal of foreign naval fleets.

The secretary went on to say in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly that during the 48th session of the

General Assembly there were numerous developments in the international arena, such as the victory of the South African people following their long struggle. But he noted that there are still numerous conflicts waiting to be solved.

These include ethnic conflicts and the conflicts which take place in the absence of people's authority. The secretary expressed Libya's desire to exert greater efforts towards drafting a treaty to consider Africa a nuclear-free zone and activate the initiative aiming at the creation of a Middle East area free of all weapons of mass destruction. He said that Libya is a signatory of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and hopes that the preparatory committee for 1995 achieves greater understanding, which gives due regard to all pre-occupations of the signatory states.

The secretary confirmed that the respect and protection of human rights is one of the guiding principles of Libyan policy, which established the universal committee for the al-Qadhdhafi human rights prize and adopted the great green charter of human rights in the era of the masses. He said that Libya is intent on contributing and supporting all international efforts to ensure [words indistinct] enjoyment of human rights and welcomes the recommendations of the Vienna Congress, which is considered a major steps towards laying solid foundations and strengthening of human rights.

He said that the economies of the developing world are still facing continuous problems as a result of the soaring problem of foreign debts and the application of preferential trade barriers and the imposition of conditions on the export of developed technology and the decline in the prices of raw materials and the continued effort to impose new taxes. These problems cannot be solved in an effective way unless there is a definite attempt by the international community to eradicate all erroneous practices in the international economic system such as the freezing of assets and the confiscation of properties, carried out by some developed states against a number of developing states including Libya.

'Umar al-Muntasir expressed Libya's satisfaction at the reactivation of the activities of the General Assembly and the establishment of effective relations between the assembly and the Security Council. He confirmed the need to increase Security Council Membership and to achieve a fair geographical distribution of this membership.

The secretary concluded his address by calling for the need for neutrality in the Security Council and the need to ensure that it does not allow the domination of any state over it or that it cannot be manipulated into serving the interests of any state. This was evident recently in the invasion of Haiti, an independent state and member of the United Nations.

UN Meetings Reported

LD1210163594 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, al-Tumur [October] 12 Jamahiriyah News Agency—The secretary of General People Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation met yesterday the chairman of the Security Council for this month in which they discussed the prospect of the so called Lockerbie issue and the efforts which had been spent by Arab League and the Seventh Committee to find a peaceful and fair settlement to the problem.

On the fringe of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly, the secretary of the General People Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation also held a separate meetings with the ambassdors of China, Brazil and New Zealand in which he discussed the efforts to solve the so called Lockerbie issue and lifting the unjust measures imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

President al-Bashir Expresses Support for Iraq

EA1210190094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has said Sudan rejects the continuation of the blockade against Iraq and condemns the attempts to starve the Iraqi people.

During his regular meeting today with leaders of the media and press, he said the justifications given for continuing the blockade against Iraq were unacceptable, and that whenever it was time to re-examine the UN resolutions on Iraq, some stands appear to justify continuing the blockade. He gave as an example the recent military build-up in the gulf region and the massive media campaign accompanying it. He affirmed that these moves were aimed at continuing the blockade and increasing the pressure on Iraq and its people. He said: We in Sudan consider this blockade an oppression of and aggression against Iraq.

The president of the Republic pointed out that Sudan did not, in principle, accept that an Arab state would commit an aggression against a sisterly Arab state. It also strives to solve differences within the framework of Arab interests and good neighborly relations. The leader of the revolution called on the Arab states to work closely together and show solidarity with one another, in order to thwart the conspiracies being hatched against all the Arabs, of which only the Israeli enemy benefits.

On the other hand, the president of the Republic affirmed, during his meeting with leaders of the media, the state's blessing for the recent reconciliation between Arab and (al-Zaghawa) tribes in the state of Darfur. He said the existence of state and provincial administration in the area played a great role in containing the dispute between the two sides before it deteriorated. He pointed out that campaigns to gather arms from the citizens would continue and that the law would be applied sternly in this respect. The president of the Republic explained that the government would foster the reconciliation through a follow-up committee. It will also strive to implement all the clauses set forth in the reconciliation accord. [passage omitted]

Speaker on 'Fabricated Hostility' Against Iraq

JN1210133594 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Oct 12, (INA)—Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Sudanese Transitional Parliament stressed that the new fabricated hostility against Iraq aimed at providing another opportunity for greedy and aspirant conspirators to strike Arab military capability represented by Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Sudanese official stressed the legitimacy of Iraq's movement of forces within its national borders.

He explained that current events in the Gulf region was a new play to maintain the blockade against Iraq and find justifications for foreign military presence in the region.

He called for holding an Arab summit and a parliamentary meeting in order to hold an objective dialogue and crystallize minimum understanding within the course of Arab joint action.

Al-Mahdi Cited on Government-Opposition Dialogue

MM1210143594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p1

[Report by Kamal Hamid: "Al-Mahdi Confirms Existence of an Initiative for Dialogue between the Government and the Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese Prime Minister and Ummah Party leader, has admitted the existence of initiative for a dialogue between, on the one hand, figures representing the Sudanese Government and the National Islamic Front [NIF] which supports it, and on the other hand, political opposition figures. He told AL-HAYAH: "Yes, I have met with some figures. I will not name them now. They did not include [NIF leader] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi but they were important figures." Al-Mahdi added: "A meeting was held and there was a dialogue. Some groups in the government and in the opposition do not want such a dialogue but I am in favor of a dialogue if it leads to democracy and peace, as in the cases of South Africa, Benin, Zambia, and Algeria. Sudan qualifies more than other states for a genuine dialogue." Al-Mahdi's statement comes after a period of controversy about reconciliation efforts, confirmed by some government and opposition circles and denied by others. In reply to a question about President 'Umar al-Bashir's statement that reconciliation with individuals was acceptable but not with parties, al-Mahdi said: "First of all, we did not request the meeting and the dialogue. The invitation came from government elements. Secondly, I do not believe that anyone would deny the fact that there is a real crisis in Sudan pertaining to living conditions, economic deterioration, foreign isolation, and foreign threats."

Commenting on the Sudanese Government's call for participation in the regime's political structures and organizations, al-Mahdi said: "We see no reason for participation in structures that lack complete freedom, youthful administration, basic liberties, independence of the judiciary, and guarantee of human rights. That is (the point) we insist upon." Al-Mahdi said that the absence of signs of traditional opposition to the government "does not mean full satisfaction because oppostion can take different forms such as the exodus of brains and qualifications and collapse of the Sudanese currency resulting in the use of U.S. dollars in internal investment, which disproves the government's claim about the independence of national decisionmaking." He declined to comment on rumors in Sudanese political circles about an imminent reconciliation between the government and the opposition.

Political sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the recent visit to Britain by a former interior minister and prominent NIF member and the consultations he held in London were "part of internal and external moves to promote a reconciliation between the opposition abroad and the government." They said that 'Abd-al-Rahman [not further identified] "had political authorization to hold a dialogue with the opposition and to try to bridge these views."

Advisor Criticizes Uganda's Alleged Rebel Support

EA1110225094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the political advisor to the presidency of the Republic, has again criticized the Ugandan Government's stance of supporting the rebel movement politically, diplomatically, and militarily.

In a news conference held this evening at the Friendship Hall and attended by media organs and international journalists covering the inter-religious dialogue conference, Dr. Ghazi referred to President Yoweri Museveni's recent stance toward Sudan, as reflected by his statement to the international press, that the southern problem should be taken to the Security Council.

He said this showed that he was not neutral and thus could not be a mediator in the talks between the government and the rebel movement.

He said Sudan had proposed the creation of a new mechanism for the talks within the framework of the Intergovernmental Agency on Drought and Development initiative. He stressed its continuation.

Dr. Ghazi touched on Sudan's relations with the United States, saying that Washington accused Sudan without any proof. He said the motive was political and arose from its fear of the country's Islamic orientation, as well the influence of the Zionist lobby which controls its politics.

Turabi Calls For Christian-Islamic Front

AB1210113194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, secretary-general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Congress, held a news conference today at the conference headquarters [as heard, not further specified] in which he reviewed the most important issues currently affecting the Islamic and Arab world and the dialogue between religions, Islam, and the West and the question of applying Islamic shari'ah in Sudan.

Dr. al-Turabi emphasized the importance of continuing the Christian-Islamic dialogue and the importance of a union of all believers in all parts of the world to form a strong front against apostasy and the arrogant powers of the world. He said the West did not know much about true Islam and that there has to be dialogue to clarify this. He dealt with the West's allegations against Sudan and Islam and accusations of terrorism levelled at Islam. [passage omitted]

GCC Foreign Ministers Hold Emergency Meeting

Saudi, Kuwaiti Ministers Speak

LD1210170294 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Statements by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah at opening session of the GCC foreign ministers' conference in Kuwait City on 12 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to Almighty God, and prayers and peace be upon the last of prophets and messengers. Your highnesses, excellencies, honorable brothers: With the help of God, I open the proceedings of the 18th extraordinary session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council. The convening of this session was dictated by extremely grave circumstances: Instead of taking the correct road by implementing all of the resolutions of international legality to atone for its sinful aggression against the fraternal State of Kuwait, which led to a flaw in inter-Arab solidarity, killings, destruction of property, waste of national resources, and weakening of the economy, the Iraqi regime decided to return to the road of aggression, thereby aborting all efforts to restore health to the Arab body after the split it suffered as a result of the Iraqi's regime's previous perfidious occupation of Kuwait, its aggression and threats against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the GCC member states. In open defiance of international legality, the Iraqi regime once again revealed the aggressive intentions it harbored against the fraternal State of Kuwait and all of the Gulf region with the contents of its statement issued by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, and the subsequent Iraqi military movements and massing of troops near the borders between Iraq and the State of Kuwait.

The Iraqi regime wrongly believed that it could humiliate the international legality, that its limited and selective response to some requirements of the resolutions of the Security Council pertaining to its aggression against the State of Kuwait as regards the removal of the arms of mass destruction in its possession would lead to lifting the international sanctions imposed on it in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 661, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Security Council Resolution No. 687.

But his real intentions, which again became clear, lie in the deployment of his armed forces and his continued threatening of security and stability in the Gulf region.

Brothers: The new threat of security and stability in our Gulf region by the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad is categorical evidence of the truthfulness of the motive behind our earnest efforts in directing the spotlights on his conspiratorial plans and his attempt to evade the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and his prevarications in this regard, by which some people were about to be taken in. However, the Iraqi regime soon exposed itself by itself, and showed its real aggressive intentions toward Kuwait and the GCC member states, a matter which will make the international legitimacy more insistant upon full and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi regime's aggression, and which are essentially manifested in Iraq's frank and documented recognition of the border of the fraternal State of Kuwait, its independence and sovereignty, a constitutional recognition coupled with international guarantees mentioned in the UN Security Council Resolution No. 833, in addition to the fact that Iraq should release all Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, pay full compensation for all damages resulting from its aggression, and to undertake not to commit or support any terroristic or subversive action—because all of that constitutes a series of legal interrelated undertakings.

Brothers: Our meeting here in the State of Kuwait and the measures that our states have taken reaffirm the unswerving determination of our states—leadership and peoples—to defend the territorial integrity of the fraternal State of Kuwait. We hope, now that the intentions of the leadership in Iraq have been exposed, that anyone—Arabs and non-Arabs—who were not convinced the last time [in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait] will finally realize the extent of the danger of the situation and adopt the decision which this flagrant aggression against the sovereignty of an independent state and against the international legitimacy requires.

The suffering of the Iraqi people, with whom we all sympathize, is the outcome of the policies of the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi regime's refusal to fully and comprehensively implement all UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 706 and 712, has deprived the people of Iraq from making avilable and meeting its humane requirements. Thus, the responsibility for the continuation of the Iraqi people's suffering lies squarely on the shoulders of the Iraqi regime alone. Our aim should inevitably also be to insist on Iraq's total and comprehensive undertaking to implement all UN Security Council resolutions, as this is the only way to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and at the same time to put a final end to the threats of the Iraqi regime to the security, safety, and stability of the Gulf region.

Brothers: In conclusion, I would like to pray to God Almighty to make our steps firm and provide us with good counsel and to make us triumphant over the one who has shown enmity toward us. I would like to repeat my praise to all states that stood by and are standing by Kuwait, the unified international stand that rejects aggression and works for the bolstering of security and stability not only in our region alone but throughout the world. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]

Chairman] Now Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah will speak.

[Al-Sabah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, may blessings and peace be upon the most noble of messengers. Your excellencies, your royal highnesses, first I would like to welcome you to your second homeland, Kuwait, to participate in the proceedings of the 18th extraordinary session of the ministerial council. This session is your gracious and swift response. Its convening is a sincere expression of your appreciation of the size of the dangers surrounding all of us in this critical and delicate stage because of the escalating Iraqi threats to which we are exposed. Your response in accepting the invitation is also an embodiment of your commitment to the principle of the collective security of the states of our GCC council, the unity and destiny of its sons, and our determination to confront the Iraqi regime's attempts aimed at shaking the security and stability of our states.

O brothers, you have followed what the Iraqi regime has embarked upon in recent days, from one threat to another, and the threats it has made against the State of Kuwait through its various media and statements by officials of that regime. The Iraqi regime has also endeavored through its armed forces to support, mass, and concentrate armed elements in civilian dress near the Kuwaiti borders in an attempt to pressure and intimidate these elements on the pretence that they were forced to leave the State of Kuwait and in continuation of the policy of escalation which this regime has followed.

On 6 October an official Iraqi spokesman issued a statement at the end of a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the leadership of the party in Iraq containing falsehoods and allegations and a blatant threat to the State of Kuwait, thus paving the way for the Iraqi regime to intensify the movements of its military forces in increasing numbers near Kuwait's borders, proving anew the aggressive and expansionist intentions towards my country, and also proving that it is a regime that is beyond the pale of international legitimacy. Our region cannot enjoy security and stability as long as the Iraqi regime remains.

O brothers, what the Iraqi regime repeatedly makes propaganda about and uses to justify itself is the suffering of its people and the claim that my country is behind the continuation of this suffering. This is merely a pretence. This regime and the whole world are aware that the responsibility for this suffering rests only with the Iraqi regime and its failure to abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712.

Our country is still the victim of its aggression on 2 August 1990, and what our people are concerned about is that Iraq should abide by the full implementation of all articles of the Security Council resolutions, especially all those related to Resolution 833 and the return of their sons who are detained and suffering in Iraqi prisons.

On more than one occasion we have all expressed anxiety over and regret for the sufferings of the Iraqi people caused by the policies of the Iraqi regime, reaffirming the sympathies of our states with the Iraqi people in their tribulation.

Brothers: Our meeting today is a continuation of and an insistance on that honorable and brave stance the brother GCC member states took at the time of the treacherous Iraqi invasion in 1990, and through which you painted the most glorious portrait of cohesion when the innocent blood of the sons of the member states of the GCC irrigated the soil of Kuwait to cleanse it of the filth of sin and aggression. The positive and constructive reactions and support we are witnessing today from the brothers and friends in confronting the Iraqi threat to our security, future, and independence is a categorical assertion by the international community to reject the Iraqi regime's aggressive and expansionist policies, and a clear message to that regime that the international stand is still cohesive in confronting it, and that its imagination that that stand may weaken is an illusion. It also manifests a proof that we are the authors of a just cause and legitimate right which we inevitably must defend. Proceeding from this commitment by the international stance, we would like to address the international community—in the form of the Security Council—to look into the realization of decisive and deterent measures against the Iraqi regime to make it refrain from intermittently continuing its threats to and undermining the security and stability in the region, and to reaffirm the rule of law and to preserve international legitimacy.

Brothers: In your name, I would like to express gratitude and thanks to the fraternal and friendly states for their principled stances that reject the Iraqi regime's policies of threat and that represent a flagrant departure from international legitimacy and a flagrant violation of the provisions of international law. I would also like to express my profound gratitude in this regard to the friendly states who hastened to deploy their armed forces and took all measures and precautions in support of my country's defense capabilities.

Brothers: I am confident that our meeting today will give us an opportunity for consultation over and study of everything that will contribute to the strengthening of our capabilities and the cohesion of our stances in these difficult circumstances. In conclusion, I emplore God Almighty to guide us along the right path and enable us to attain for the sons of the GCC member states their legitimate aspirations in security and stability in their homelands. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]

[Al Sa'ud] May I ask the press brothers and guests to leave the hall so that the session can be held in camera, restricted to the official delegations only.

Statement, News Conference Reported

LD1210154794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1327 GMT 12 Oct 94

[U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's remarks in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries, the United States, and the United Kingdom held a meeting today at Bayan Palace. Following the meeting, a joint statement was issued and read by GCC Secretary General Dr. Fahim al-Qasimi. The statement was followed by a news conference with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign affairs. We will follow with this statement and the news conference.

[Begin recording] [Saudi Foreign Minister al-Faysal, in English fading into Arabic translation] Ladies and gentlemen, we have a joint statement which will be read by the GCC secretary general, and then there will be a brief statement [words indistinct] this joint statement about the meeting of the GCC foreign ministers in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. The GCC secretary general is welcome to read out the joint statement.

[Al-Qasimi, in English] The foreign ministers of the GCC member countries, meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, today met in Kuwait in order to review the situation and security in the region, the Iraqi threats, and the action which should be taken to confront them. This includes the military preparations and maneuvers, combat statements, and what is currently been done to confront these actions.

The ministers expressed their complete [word indistinct] support for the integrity of Kuwaiti territory, and rejected any threat to the countries of the region.

They especially stressed that pressure should be maintained on Iraq until it adheres to the UN Security Council's resolutions, and should adopt joint steps in order to confront this threat [words indistinct], and ensure that Iraq is incapable of threatening Kuwait or the regional security.

Iraq's announcement that it has withdrawn its forces from the Iraqi [as heard] border does not alter the fact that the Iraqi Government has, as it did in the past, adopted stances which indicate its readiness to resort to force in order to achieve its ends.

The foreign ministers welcome the statements of Arab countries denouncing the Iraqi behavior. The ministers agree to coordinate stances [words indistinct] until it is certain that Iraq does not pose a threat in the region.

The coalition-GCC forces must be placed on the highest combat readiness until the Iraqi threat ceases.

The ministers agree that support and coordination regarding relations between GCC states should continue, and joint action at the level of the region should continue.

The ministers note the importance of the work by the UN committee inside Iraq, and that a firm response will be adopted to any attempt by Iraq against any country in the region. Iraqi activities over the last week reveal that Iraq is still posing a continuous threat to the State of Kuwait.

Saddam Husayn has put an end to any hope of easing the sanctions imposed on his country. The sanctions will continue to be imposed until Iraq adheres to the UN Security Council's resolutions.

The ministers stress that they have no dispute with the Iraqi people, and that there is still a readiness to supply Iraq with humanitarian aid and medical aid, but it is Iraq that has hindered these efforts. The responsibility for the suffering of the Iraqi people is due to the practices of the Iraqi regime.

The GCC member states support the action aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East, including respect among the regions' countries for the borders.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher was informed about the latest developments in the peace process. All express support for the parties concerned to finish their mission. They declare opposition to the [word indistinct] of the movements which oppose the peace process. They also expresse support for the economic summit in which Arab countries will participate [words indistinct] in Morocco, and encourage the participation of (?those) involved in the peace process.

[Words indistinct] the ministers expressed appreciation to the State of Kuwait for hosting the conference, and hope that cooperation and contacts continue to achieve peace and security in the region.

[Christopher] Kuwait has faced up to the hostile action of Saddam Husayn, and we for our part have discussed this position with the GCC member states. Today we arrived at a quick agreement and we stood side by side to discuss the Iraqi threats and to ensure cooperation in this sphere. Today we have reached a number of agreements [words indistinct] Measures must be taken to ensure that Iraq will not return to [word indistinct] the state of the region.

Second, we agreed to coordinate efforts toward a joint action in order to [words indistinct] urgently consider the creation of a fund or some other mechanism for this action. Each of the GCC member states has agreed to offer their territories, airfields, and facilities for the troops and their equipments. The GCC member states also agree to make available the Peninsula Shield forces to face up to the threats of Saddam Husayn, so that what happened in 1990 does not recur. [Words indistinct] horrendous price. [Words indistinct] for Saddam and the Iraqi Army will be devastating. Iraq has caused the destruction of the infrastructure of this region and poses an unmistakable threat [words indistinct]. We do not agree to threats, and the forces will not [word indistinct] after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces. There is complete preparedness among the allied forces to remain [words indistinct] so long as the Iraqi forces have not withdrawn.

I want to emphasize that in our discussions today we expressed our sympathy for the suffering endured by the Iraqi people, but we also emphasized that the source of their pain is not our stances, but Saddam Husayn's decisions and Iraq's failure to comply with the UN Security Council's resolutions, so that humanitarian relief can be released to end this suffering.

Saddam Husayn and his actions speak for themselves as the cause of impoverishing his country. He has shown to be a menace not only to the world and his neighbors, but also to his people.

We now witness the remarkable transformation in this area, which is the joint action between the neighboring countries, in order to adopt measures which will lead to promoting the peace process, and in order to put an end to the threats and terror caused by imprisoning the enemies of peace.

I was in this region during the past few days and I noticed that Saddam Husayn is still persevering with the same stances as in 1990. Therefore, his friends in the region have started to abandon him. King Husayn of Jordan has stated that he cannot continue to support Saddam Husayn, as he constitutes a threat to this region.

The GCC countries, Foreign Secretary Hurd, and myself have agreed that no opportunity should be given for this threat against the region to be repeated. Thank you.

[Foreign Secretary Hurd, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] The British Armed forces have arrived in Kuwait and have deployed in order to preserve the independence of Kuwait. I am happy about this for two reasons: One, because it is a good principle to stand by your friends, and second, because Britain strongly supports the stability and prosperity of this region. This is why I am glad to see our aircraft and ships this afternoon deployed here alongside the American and Kuwaiti forces.

We discussed here today in an informal and [word indistinct] way with the GCC member countries [words indistinct] how to [word indistinct] a withdrawal which might have begun [words indistinct] in the region [words indistinct] we did our best to face up to this threat. Secretary of State Christopher [words indistinct] that if the Iraqi people is suffering it is not because of our actions and the resolutions of the UN Security Council. It is because Saddam Husayn has refused to carry out the resolutions [words indistinct]. We have agreed that there should be joint action, and the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented before we declare ourselves satisfied. Thank you.

[Al-Qasimi] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. British Foreign Secretary, we thank you for your presence here [words indistinct] your support, and that of the United States with the state of Kuwait, and for the stability of the region. This solidarity expresses not only a political will, but also a position of friendship. I am grateful. We thank also the Government of France, which has not only expressed its solidarity, but it has also sent air and naval forces to the region.

We also thank the allies and our brothers in the Arab world who stood up to defend Kuwait in 1991, and all the stances rendered by the Arab world to support Kuwait and [words indistinct] against the Iraqi aggression.

I seize this opportunity to [words indistinct] the UN Security Council to stress that the world will not listen and [words indistinct] will not continue unless Security Council resolutions are applied. I agree with the U.S. secretary of state and the British foreign secretary in what they have said in their speeches. Now we will answer your questions:

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Christopher] Before we started our talks today about the Iraqi threat and the [words indistinct] of the United States and its allies, and their firm reply to this threat, stressing that the threat has not succeeded, at the same time we realize that it is important for Saddam Husayn not to resort to such threats. We have discussed a number of options [word indistinct] that he is incapable of [word indistinct] again to [word indistinct] such a threat at short notice. We also discussed other issues which we cannot talk about at the present time, but I hope that we will work together in the future to ensure that Saddam Husayn's act would not be repeated, and we are working toward this direction. Thank you.

[Correspondent, in English] [Words indistinct] There is a consensus on these measures and looking into [words indistinct] I do not see the French foreign minister, I do not see the Russian foreign minister, yet [words indistinct].

[Christopher] We have worked together and I have not seen any initiatives from any other side; these initiatives are so far confined to the United States and Britain. In fact, we have together with our allies worked toward discussing this issue, and we are confident that the international community is working together, because nobody in this community wants Saddam Husayn to cause such an international crisis by deploying his forces on the borders with Kuwait. On this basis we are working together to do first things first, and to make sure that this threat is over and behind. The U.S. forces have been deployed and they will remain until they make sure that such action is not repeated.

There are ambiguous statements. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] To share the cost of this operation, can you give some idea what the costs are?

[Christopher] The operation is still continuing and we cannot calculate (?the cost for everyone). We are all working together, we can sit down and discuss what we should do. There would be a sharing of the burdon. We have to discuss together as to how to confront these threats.

[Correspondent] What can you say about the statement of the Iraqi representative at the United Nations? He said that his country is prepared to recognize the Kuwaiti borders and also to recognize Kuwait if the United States works toward [words indistinct]

[Christopher] If we recall the crisis of 1990 and the practical steps which were taken by the GCC countries; [passage indistinct] On the other hand, in the current circumstances, [words indistinct] to make the adequate decisions to ensure the nonrecurrence of this [words indistinct]. The question is stability [passage indistinct].

I think [word indistinct] is more [word indistinct] than it was in 1990. This means that the Iraqi deputy prime minister's statements in the United Nations cannot be taken seriously or with credibility. For it was immediatly followed by a buildup of troops on the Kuwaiti borders and the threat [words indistinct].

[Correspondent, in English] Would you agree that the Iraqis should be prevented from taking a threatening posture? That means the United States [words indistinct] issuing an ultimatum. Second, continue to meet officials and talk about the benefits of setting up a safe zone. Would it be satisfactory to establish such a zone?

[Christopher] I think the answer is a demilitarized no-fly zone. We are committed to continue to work toward creating a demilitarized and air exclusion zone. We have discussed this matter today and the consultations will continue between the countries of the region. I think that the countries are united with regard to adopting new mechanisms, including securing the continuation of such a zone.

What we are concentrating on now is ensuring that the threat does not continue. This attitude should continue. Thank you.

Further on Joint Statement

LD1210215694 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 2002 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Joint Statement issued by the GCC ministerial council in Kuwait on 12 October; read by GCC Secretary General Dr. Fahim al-Qasimi—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ministerial council held its 18th extraordinary session on Wednesday, 12 October 1994, in response to a kind invitation from the State of Kuwait. The meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and chairman of the current term of the ministerial council. It was attended by His Excellency Rashid Bin- 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister of Bahrain; His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the Sultanate of Oman; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister of Qatar; and His Excellency Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait.

The ministerial council followed the developments in the situation in the region with utmost concern in light of the provocative massing of Iraqi forces on the Kuwaiti borders and the threats recently voiced by the Iraqi regime against the security and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait.

The council expresses its complete rejection of these irresponsible practices because of the serious threat they represent to the sovereignty of one of the GCC member states, as well as a barefaced challenge to international legitimacy and charters and a blatant violation of Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi regime's aggression against Kuwait and the cease-fire conditions laid down in Resolution 687 which Iraq accepted without qualification or condition.

The council stresses that the practices of the Iraqi regime constitute a direct threat to the security and stability of the member states. The council, while condemning the Iraqi regime for continuing to pursue policies of threats and alluding to the use of force against the State of Kuwait and the GCC states, of creating a climate of tension and unease in the region and putting regional security and peace at risk, stresses that the GCC states stand in absolute support of Kuwait in all the steps and measures it has taken to maintain its sovereignty and the security of its territory, relying on the principle of collective security and a joint destiny, recalling in this regard the statements of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states which emphasized that any attack on any member state was an attack on all of the member states and that the security of all the GCC states was indivisible.

The ministerial council also calls on the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities by dealing resolutely with the Iraqi regime in order to put an end to the Iraqi threats to the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and to regional security in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 687 and 833 so as to take the measures that will ensure that the Iraqi regime will be deterred from continuing its threats to upset security and stability from time to time, in order to affirm and ensure the sovereignty of the principles of international law and to establish security and peace.

The council expresses its great appreciation to the friendly and brotherly countries who have voiced their rejection and condemnation of the Iraqi regime's aggressive policies toward the State of Kuwait and the security of the region. The council notes in this context its sincere gratitude to brotherly states who were quick to deploy forces in the region in support of the State of Kuwait's defensive capabilities.

In this regard, The ministerial council praises the positive outcome of the two meetings held today by His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and His Excellency British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. This positive outcome of the meetings reflects the two sides' determination to confront the Iraqi threats. The council also praises the UN Security Council's latest resolution issued on 8 October which stressed, among other issues, the Security Council's commitment to guarantee the sovereignty and the security of the territory of the State of Kuwait.

The ministerial council demands that the Iraqi regime withdraw its forces deployed on the borders with the State of Kuwait, to implement fully all of the Security Council's resolutions relating to its aggression against the State of Kuwait as well as the conditions and provisions stipulated by Resolution 687, particulalry those concerning the respect of the State of Kuwait's soveregínty and the documented recognition of the international borders between the State of Kuwait and Iraq according to Resolution 833 and to release all Kuwaiti and other countries' POWs and detainees. While the ministerial council expresses its sympathy with the Iraqi people in its ordeal, it holds the Iraqi regime responsible for the sufferings of the Iraqi people as a result of its refusal to implement the Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which deal with the Iraqi people's food and medicine needs.

The ministerial council renews its keen interest in maintaining Iraqi territorial integrity in a way that will contribute to the achievement of stability and security of the region.

Issued in the city of Kuwait on 12 October 1994.

Ministers Depart After Meeting

LD1210165694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers left Kuwait today after participating in the emergency session during which they endorsed the means to deter any Iraqi threats to the security of the State of Kuwait and the region following the recent Iraqi troops buildup on the Kuwaiti border. [passage omitted]

GCC States Said Gearing 'All Resources' to Crisis

MM1310110894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Sulayman Nimr and Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait; Rafiq Khalil al-Ma'luf in Washington; Raghidah Dirgham in New York; and AL-HAYAH bureaus in Paris and Muscat: "Gulf States Favor Exclusion Zone"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The coalition states have announced that the Gulf crisis is not over yet. The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' foreign ministers, who met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Kuwait, agreed to continue "to mobilize forces and equipment that would guarantee nonrepetition of Iraqi threats." They reaffirmed the importance of "strengthening military coordination between the GCC states and the coalition states for the continued deployment of the forces necessary for joint operations in the region."

AL-HAYAH has learned that the GCC states, the United States, and Britain will seek a Security Council resolution creating an exclusion zone in southern Iraq to prevent repetition of the current crisis. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has told AL-HAYAH that the billions he previously talked about as costs of the military mobilization took into consideration the possibility of an all-out war in the Gulf, which is unlikely, and that the current costs are much less than that. But he said that it is too early to determine the real cost of the current confrontation with Iraq. He added that the aim of the dispatch of massive U.S. forces to the region was to reduce the chances of having to use force and to deter Iraq and make it withdraw. [passage omitted]

[Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has stated that the GCC states have reaffirmed that they are gearing all their resources toward supporting Kuwait and tackling the crisis. In a statement to AL-HAYAH on his arrival at Kuwait airport in the morning, he emphasized that "all the measures that could be taken to defend Kuwait and the region have been taken." He urged the Security Council to take the "necessary measures to ensure discontinuation of the Iraqi threat of aggression and to force Iraq to implement the UN resolutions." Fiercely attacking the Iraqi regime, he said: "The Gulf states have for some time been warning that the Iraqi regime still had aggressive intentions toward Kuwait. That was confirmed by its recent movements and military concentrations near the Kuwaiti borders." He said these movements were "attempts to procrastinate and dither over implementation of all the Security Council resolutions, and to have the sanctions lifted." He cast doubt on the Iraqi regime's declaration of willingness to recognize Kuwait if the international sanctions were lifted. He pointed out that while Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was addressing the United Nations and talking about his country's commitment to the Security Council resolutions, "the Iraqi leadership was moving its forces toward the Kuwaiti borders." He emphasized that "the Iraqi regime has no credibility whatsoever." He requested a documented Iraqi recognition not only of Kuwait's sovereignty but also of the Security Council's resolutions on the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and the release of the POW's.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the GCC states discussed the question of forming a unified command for the joint Gulf forces. It is not known what they agreed upon in this connection. Meanwhile, the reinforcement of the U.S. forces in Kuwait continues. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Army To Use Live Ammunition in Military Exercises

LD1210232494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 2256 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Announcement from the Army General Staff: The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Army announces that our Armed Forces and the Alliance forces will carry out firing with live amunition in the northern area of the State of Kuwait during the early hours of this morning, Thursday, 13 October 1994 and until further notice. Accordingly, sounds of explosions will be heard. Therefore, the Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Army would like to reassure the brother citizens that the sounds of these explosions are the result of these exercises.

TV Broadcasts Guidance on Air Raid Emergency

LD1210120594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic at 1101 GMT on 12 October broadcasts five minutes of announcer-read guidance for citizens on what to do when the air raid sirens are sounded.

The announcer first gives an example of the danger siren and tells citizens that if they are at home or in the office when they hear the danger warning to switch off lights, switch off gas and electricity, not to use elevators, stay away from windows and doors, and listen to the media.

The announcer then gives an example of the all-clear siren and asks citizens, when they hear it, not to approach damaged areas, not to pick up anything from floors or the ground that does not belong to them, and to refrain from spreading rumors or listening to them.

The announcer then gives advice to citizens on what to do if they are in a car when they hear the danger siren, such as stopping the car and going to an air raid shelter, or if the car is carrying inflammable materials, the driver should move the car away from built up areas

The announcement concludes with guidelines on what to do if citizens are walking in the streets when the siren sounds, emphasizing that the citizen should immediately make for an air raid shelter and not to light any fires.

United Arab Emirates Sends Mirage, Cargo Planes

LD1310104994 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Six Mirage 2000 planes and six giant cargo planes belonging to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Air Force arrived in Kuwait today to join the forces of the alliance countries present in the country to confront the Iraqi military concentrations in the border area between Kuwait and Iraq.

Prime Minister Warns Iraq of 'Great Blow'

MM1210133094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Muhammad al-Dumyan: "Shaykh Sa'd: Iraq Will Be Dealt Great Blow If It Contemplates Penetrating Kuwaiti Border"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has stressed that "Iraq will be dealt a very great blow if it contemplates penetrating the Kuwaiti border." He pointed out that "Kuwait does not want to begin the aggression. However, it will not allow any Iraqi soldier to move a single step inside Kuwaiti territory without his paying the price."

During a meeting with the heads of public unions and societies on the evening before last [10 October], Shaykh Sa'd renewed Kuwait's demands on Iraq. He said: "We want the Iraqi authorities first to implement all the Security Council resolutions represented in respecting Kuwait's sovereignty and its firmly established international borders endorsed by a decision from the committee formed by the Security Council. And to quickly release our sons and daughters who are suffering inside Iraqi jails."

Shaykh Sa'd added that "this recognition must be issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, which should issue a statement recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty. Then the National Assembly should convene and issue a resolution recognizing the Kuwaiti borders. All this should be endorsed by the United Nations and published in the official Iraqi gazette."

Shaykh Sa'd said: These are Kuwait's demands and conditions of which Iraqi authorities were informed.

Shaykh Sa'd stressed that "all military sectors—air, ground, and naval—are working day and night to watch the Iraqi forces' movements." He pointed out that "Kuwaiti forces, backed by friendly forces, are fully ready to repulse and deter any Iraqi Aggression."

Shaykh Sa'd issued a strongly worded warning to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He said: "If the Iraqi regime's head contemplates moving closer to the Kuwaiti border, it will be disastrous for him. The blow will not be similar to the one that happened during the liberation of Kuwait; it will be very great this time."

He added that "Kuwait has received positive responses from brothers and friends to the effect that any aggression on Kuwait's territory and entity will not pass peacefully. The friends and brothers have translated their words into actions by sending their air and naval forces and various weaponry to Kuwait."

Shaykh Sa'd stressed the responsibilities laid on the Kuwaiti people's shoulder. Addressing citizens in Kuwait, he said that "the situation requires that we sense the responsibility and monitor security issues with utmost vigilance and wisdom. And that we deny groups seeking to weaken the internal front and fragment the unity of ranks through rumors and allegations the opportunity—now and in the future—to achieve their aim."

UN Delegate Calls For Expanding Demilitarized Zone

NC1310082294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Interview with Ambassador Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, permanent delegate to the United Nations, in New York, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, date not given, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome Ambassador Abu-al-Hasan to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Hasan] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe the situation requires the Security Council to issue new resolutions to return things to what they were and calm down the situation on the border between Kuwait and Iraq?

[Abu-al-Hasan] I believe that what count are the measures that must be taken by Iraq, be they in the form of decisions, presidential statements, or measures by the allied states that helped to liberate Kuwait under the mandate given to them, a mandate that still stands. The purpose of these measures is to lay down a mechanism and rules to prevent a repetition of the tragic situation that was about to explode and that shook security and stability in the region and wasted precious resources that could otherwise have been applied to a more suitable area, namely, development programs in the Gulf states.

[Al-Jundi] Iraq has moved its military troops back north yet suspicions still abound regarding the Iraqi regime's intentions. What could guarantee that the Iraqi regime will not use its military to threaten its neighbors?

[Abu-al-Hasan] This is precisely what we are working on right now and will continue to work on in the coming few days. Our responsibility is to search for a way to ensure that the Iraqi regime, while it continues to oppress the Iraqi people, will refrain from such practices. We believe that we should benefit from the examples provided by countries that launched war and the way in which they were treated, countries such as Japan and Germany. After World War II, measures were taken to ensure that there would be no reverting to the hostile nature of the time. We believe that the Iraqi regime has become an aggressive regime, an outlaw, and an outcast. We must not satisfy ourselves with promises alone or even temporary measures, such as the withdrawal the Iraqi Government claims has taken place. Even if withdrawal has taken place, the demilitarized zone, for instance, must be expanded far deeper than the current 10-km zone. There must be intervention in Iraq's conventional armament program. What threatens the security of Kuwait and the region is not only the weapons of mass destruction, but also the conventional weapons available to Iraq. These are just a few examples and there are other ideas that need to be examined and effected while this regime continues to oppress the Iraqis.

[Al-Jundi] In an earlier interview with us before the outbreak of this new crisis on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, you stated that the Iraqi regime's recognition of Kuwait must be authenticated by the Iraqi parliamentary bodies as well as the United Nations for Kuwait to agree to lift the sanctions on Iraq. Following the crisis do you believe that Kuwait's position on lifting the sanctions will differ?

[Abu-al-Hasan] Iraq's authenticated recognition of Kuwait was the most important precondition for alleviating the sanctions. Now there is something more important and that takes greater precedence, that is, ensuring that Iraq has peaceful intentions toward the region's countries. Iraq's intentions were manifest in the past few days through the threat to use force. Now we must handle this issue before anything else. What would be the use of a recognized border if hostile intentions remain and if the Iraqi regime has the capability to move its troops again, as if it were going on a weekend picnic? This is the priority for Kuwait and for all the Security Council members. Proof of this is that the report issued by the head of the UN special committee yesterday is no longer the focus of attention as it was supposed to be. The Security Council's attention is now focused on Iraq's peaceful intentions and making sure they exist.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that broadening the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait will be enough to ensure security on the border?

[Abu-al-Hasan] While the current regime remains in power, no measure, no matter how creative or strong it may be, will be enough. But it could deter, delay the damage, and give an opportunity to the threatened countries and those backing them to prepare themselves for any event. But while this regime remains in force... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Al-Jundi] Thank you Ambassador Abu-al-Hasan.

[Abu-al-Hasan] Thank you very much.

UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Reaffirms Support

LD1210190994 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah had a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who arrived in the country earlier today. Following the meeting, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah told a Kuwaiti radio and television reporter that he and Douglas Hurd discussed the latest developments on the northern borders of the State of Kuwait.

He said that the British foreign secretary stressed his country's firm stance and its support for the State of Kuwait and its causes in defending the safety of its territory. The British foreign secretary called on the Iraqi regime to implement all of the UN resolutions related to the war to liberate the State of Kuwait and particularly the resolutions on the recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty, the demarcation of the borders, and the release of Kuwaiti POWs and detainees from the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

Minister Denies Crude Oil Production Diminished

LD1210130494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil Minister 'Abd al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj has emphasized that the production of crude oil is proceeding as usual at the rate of 2 million barrels per day. He said that since the first day of the Iraqi threats, the Oil Ministry has adopted all necessary measures to face up to the emergency situation.

The oil minister added that there are no difficulties, whether in manpower or anything else, in the oil sector in general.

AFP reported earlier that Kuwait has reduced its oil production by half a million barrels per day because of the army reserves mobilization of many oil sector workers.

Security To Shoot Anyone Violating Oil Installations

LD1210154494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1447 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Oct—A Kuwaiti security official has emphasized that Kuwaiti oil and industrial installations are not in danger and are strongly protected by internal security personnel.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA today, Major Abdallah Uthman al-Furayh, assistant director of the department of protecting the installations at the Interior Ministry, said that the security men had orders to shoot anyone who violated the instructions and did not obey the Interior Ministry's warnings that no one except employees should approach these important installations.

[passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Receives National Guard Commanders

LD1210133194 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness, Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received in his office at the headquarters of the National Guard this afternoon the senior commanders and officers of the National Guard led by His Royal Highness, Staff General Mut'ib Bin-Abdallah-bin-'Abd al-Aziz, deputy chairman of the military department of the National Guard and commander of King Khalid Military Academy. Prince Abdallah Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz also received a number of citizens who went to greet him in his office and congratulate him on his safe return to Riyadh.

The two meetings were attended by the assistant deputy chairman of the National Guard, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin-'Abd al-Muhsin al-Tuwayjiri.

United Arab Emirates

Paper Assails French Minister Over Exclusion Zone

NC1310095494 Paris AFP in English 0917 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 13 (AFP)—A United Arab Emirates newspaper on Thursday [13 October] launched a rare attack on France for opposing the idea of a military exclusion zone in southern Iraq and urged Gulf states to retaliate.

The attack by the AL-WAHDAH daily on French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe came two days ahead of his first visit to the Emirates, which maintains strong political, military and economic relations with France.

Under the title "This strange French attitude," the paper said Juppe's statements opposing any plans to extend the current air-exclusion zone in southern Iraq to the ground had no justification.

"The rejection of the exclusion zone stated by the French foreign minister can not be justified or understood. The proposal for such a zone has its reasons and objectives, but the French opposition has no reasons or objectives," the paper said in a front-page editorial.

"The French stand could be associated with interests. But does France have more interests in Iraq than in the other Gulf Arab states combined? What Gulf response does France expect against its short-sighted stand... or doesn't it expect any response?"

The US-backed proposal for a military exclusion zone met with stiff resistance at the UN Security Council, and diplomats say Washington has instead settled for forcing Iraq to restore its military deployment to that which existed before its recent military build-up near the Kuwaiti border.

The paper said the foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council would discuss taking measures against the French position at their present meeting in Kuwait, where they conferred on Wednesday with the US and British foreign ministers to discuss the Iraqi troop build-up near the Kuwaiti border.

"Such measures will be deterrent not only for France but for other countries which think their interests in the Gulf will remain intact regardless of their political attitudes towards the region," it said. "Gulf states should not be blamed if they defended their interests."

AL-WAHDAH made no mention of France's decision to send a frigate to Kuwait nor its warnings to Iraq against attacking Kuwait. France played a key role in a US-dominated international coalition that ousted Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait in February 1991.

Yemen

Oppositionists Offer Military Support to Kuwait

MM1110121194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Yemeni Opposition Informs Kuwait of Its Willingness to Send Its Pilots"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Yemeni National Opposition Front [NOF] abroad has expressed its willingness to offer all it can to support the State of Kuwait against recent Iraqi moves.

The Front's leadership sent a cable to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, in which it described the Iraqi Army's recent moves on the border with the State of Kuwait as an attempt to blackmail, intimidate, and undermine the stability and security of the State of Kuwait and its people.

It added that "Saddam Husayn's regime is accustomed to supporting and helping some regimes, including the Sanaa regime, in such actions."

Political sources have said that the Yemeni NOF leadership expressed through its contacts with Kuwaiti officials its willingness to put the capabilities available to the opposition—pilots, naval crews, and officers—at the Kuwaiti Government's call.

Opposition Leader Urges National Reconciliation

MM1210085094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Oct 94 p 3

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, one of the South Yemeni leaders participating in the National Opposition Front, by Lutfi Shatarah in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Shatarah] What are the circumstances of and reasons for announcing the National Opposition Front [NOF]?

[Al-Asnaj] After the war in Yemen ended with the northern forces' occupation of southern governorates, national forces throughout Yemen, especially in the harmed governorates, were bound to discuss the situation and its clues and to choose a path that does not inflict further harm and suffering on our Yemeni people in general and our citizens in the southern governorates in particular in the light of what what had been discussed, the outcome of the war, the prevalent spirit in Yemen, the good appeals made by Yemen's brothers, the prevalent orientation in the international community through Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931, and what the U.S. Administration said, and the British prime minister's statements during his recent tour of the region.

All the quarters I mentioned called and continue to call for initiating a political dialogue between the Yemeni parties concerned in order to achieve comprehensive political reconciliation. Like all wise people in Yemen, I believe that the content of the Pledge and Accord Document signed in the Jordanian capital, Amman, provides a framework for such reconciliation. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] You are calling for reconciliation, as mentioned in the statement announcing the establishment of the NOF. But Sanaa is rejecting the reconciliation principle and believes that it is taking place inside the country.

[Al-Asnaj] Once again Sanaa is making a grave mistake by rejecting any call for finding a way out of the dilemma through an equal dialogue in order to move toward a comprehensive reconciliation that puts an end to the deterioration in Yemen, rehabilitates the southern governorates, and puts them on an equal footing with the northern governorates, so that Yemenis will have equal rights and duties. [passage omitted]

I believe that Sanaa is making a grave mistake by ignoring its pressing need, as a regime, for national reconciliation. It is ignoring good calls from our brothers in the region. It is also ignoring an international desire expressed by the Security Council and major states like Britain, the United States, and France. All are calling for dialogue, accord, and reconciliation. And I do not believe that Sanaa's rejection of these calls serves Yemen and the Yemenis. On the contrary, it brings further trouble and dangers for Yemen.

[Shatarah] What steps have been taken since the formation of the NOF?

[Al-Asnaj] Immediately after its formation the NOF leadership took steps to enlighten a large section of the Yemeni people in Arab capitals about the aims and means specified in the founding document announced in London last Friday. And contacts have been made with political leaderships inside Yemen—leaderships that are facing the same conditions and complications, and which are exposed to repressive measures like the suspension of their publications as a result of the measures taken by the Information Ministry against many partisan and independent newspapers. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] What working methods will the Front use to achieve its aims?

[Al-Asnaj] We are calling for a dialogue, in the sense that we openly consult and look for an acceptable political settlement through direct or indirect contacts, a dialogue between the Yemeni parties concerned, or talks leading to comprehensive national reconciliation. We follow the words of Almighty God: "And argue with them in ways that are best." [Koranic verse] So we are eager to ensure that the language of serious, committed, and clear dialogue prevail. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] There have been reports of continued contacts between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the southern leadership abroad. What is the nature of these contacts?

[Al-Asnaj] As is known, contacts between the Yemenis are not interrupted, even if they are at variance. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is accustomed to contacting 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Muscat and has assigned others to contact al-Bid. He contacted 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, al-'Attas, and Salim Salih, and even Brigadier 'Umar al-'Attas, who was appointed chief of staff in the south, and others too. These contacts are merely a way of keeping in touch with one another, but they cannot indicate the possibility of initiating a serious political dialogue between Salih and the opposition.

YSP's Muhammad: Time for Reconciliation 'Not Yet'

MM1210100094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Correspondent] What are the real reasons behind the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau's decision to dismiss former Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and yourself?

[Muhammad] If some people think that the situation in Yemen has stabilized and the Yemeni war is over, they are deluding themselves. The truth confirms that the results of the war are continuing, because the country is indeed suffering and we are living in exceptional and abnormal conditions. Thus any decisions or reforms made are formal and temporary. Even partisan life does not exist at present. This applies to the YSP. So an agreement has been reached with a group of leaderships to tackle conditions in the YSP and to unite it inside and outside the country according to basic priorities.

On that basis, the Damascus conference was held, and we adopted a clear position on the conditions our colleagues are experiencing inside the country. These conditions are difficult and sensitive by all standards. So we believe that the party's present structure is exceptional. Because quarters like the Central Committee and the conference committee are the ones which have powers vis-a-vis the party's structure, program, and orientations. Thus, any decisions issued by any other quarter in the party are unnatural and exceptional. Because the higher quarters in the party are not operational, and the meeting held in Sanaa was not a full meeting.

[Correspondent] Do you mean that any decisions taken by the party at present are illegitimate?

[Muhammad] No. I am not talking about legitimacy, because it does not exist in the first place in view of the continuation of the results of the war and the ruling party's persistence in imposing what it wants and dictating its policy to the leaderships inside the country. In the sense that it tells them: Either do that or join your brothers abroad. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If we talk about reconciliation as a means of eliminating the effects of the war, especially as there is talk behind the scenes about President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's contacts with YSP leaders abroad to prompt them to return to the country, do you expect reconciliation to take place soon?

[Muhammad] Actually there are no real or serious contacts between us and the regime in Sanaa. The bilateral negotiations, in which Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas represented us and Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani represented them, have ended. All the contacts made so far with the brothers in the opposition are merely for entertainment and fun.

In my opinion, the time has not come yet for reconciliation. because the authorities are currently confirming this view by not responding to reconciliation [calls], namely through the repressive measures they are taking in the southern areas and by allowing the Reform Grouping to implement what it could not implement in the past merely to fill the political and administrative vacuum the YSP has left. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Joint Meeting of RCC, Ba'th Command

JN1210184194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hadim Hamdan al-'Azzawi.

Russian, Chinese Attaches Check Troop Movements

NC1210161694 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 12 (AFP)—Military attaches from the Russian and Chinese embassies here visited al-Basrah to check whether Iraqi troops were withdrawing from the south as claimed by Baghdad, diplomats said Wednesday [12 October].

The visit late Tuesday followed Iraq's announcement that its troops had completed a withdrawal from the area near the Kuwaiti border, apart from two regiments which would pull back Wednesday.

An AFP correspondent who travelled from the southern city of al-Basrah to Baghdad Tuesday saw a long column of Iraqi tanks and trucks heading north.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived here Wednesday for talks with Iraqi leaders aimed at preventing a new conflict in the Gulf. He was accompanied by Viktor Posuvalyuk, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy for the Middle East.

The Russian envoys were due to travel to Kuwait later.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev earlier played down the threat of a new military clash on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

He said there was "no reason" to fear a conflict and stated that Moscow had received assurances from Baghdad that Iraqi troops in the area would confine their activities to "military manoeuvres," ITAR-TASS said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karassin said the two Russian envoys sought "to achieve step-by-step progress in stabilizing the situation in the region, including possible measures to soften the regime" of United Nations sanctions on Iraq.

Russia, China and France have suggested easing the crippling embargo imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

But the United States and Britain, the other two permanent members of the UN Security Council, insist that Baghdad should first comply fully with all UN resolutions.

The Gulf war ceasefire resolutions include a demand that Baghdad recognise Kuwaiti sovereignty and the new border fixed by the UN after US-led forces ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate in February 1991.

But Baghdad said Wednesday it would not recognise Kuwait unless the embargo was lifted.

Chinese Attache Comments on Withdrawal

NC1210221594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2153 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—The military attache at the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad has reported that he saw Iraqi military units withdrawing northward from their positions in al-Basrah area.

Colonel Si Shixin [name as transliterated], who completed a tour in the al-Basrah area today in the company of the military attache at the Russian Embassy in Baghdad, said the withdrawal of the Iraqi military units is a good gesture to defuse the current crisis.

In a statement to INA, the Chinese military attache said that during his tour yesterday and today among the military units in various areas in the al-Basrah Governorate, including the al-Zubayr area, he saw that these areas were empty of evidence of any military presence. He also saw units withdrawing to areas north of the governorate on board trains and transporters.

He added that near Maysan Governorate he saw columns of tanks moving toward the north of the governorate. This is solid proof from the military point of view of the nature of the withdrawal of the troops from the positions in which they were previously deployed.

Russia's Ivanov, Delegation Confer With Saddam

JN1210173494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has received Igor Ivanov, first deputy foreign minister of Russia and personal envoy to His Russian Excellency President Boris Yeltsin. Ivanov conveyed to the president an oral message from the Russian leadership. During the meeting a detailed discussion of viewpoints on the region's development took place.

The Russian delegation also included Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the foreign minister.

Al-Sahhaf Says Forces' Transfer Completed

JN1210183094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told INA this evening that the Iraqi Armed Forces have completed their transfer to rear positions.

Yesterday, and through its foreign minister, Iraq announced that the military force about which the clamor was created by the U.S. side, moved with its command headquarters to their rear positions at 1500 [1200 GMT] yesterday.

UN Says Situation 'Quiet' in Demilitarized Zone

JN1210204194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2022 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 12 Oct (INA)—The United Nations announced at noon today that the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait is still quiet.

Fred Erkard [name as transliterated], assistant official spokesman for the United Nations, said today that the reports of the commander of UNIKOM, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, indicate that the situation in the zone has remained quiet, and that no Iraqi troops can be seen from the demilitarized zone.

'Aziz Reportedly Requested Meeting With Christopher

JN1310075194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Oct 94 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi—QNA—In a dispatch from its correspondent in Amman, AL-ITTIHAD, published here yesterday, said that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz requested a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Secretary Christopher arrived in Amman on the night of 11 October as part of his current Middle East tour.

For this purpose, Tariq 'Aziz also arrived in Amman on 11 October and met immediately after arrival with Yusuf al-Dalabih, the Jordanian minister of state.

Radio Cites Hurd Remarks on Ground Exclusion Zone

JN1310002894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd asserted in Kuwait yesterday that the establishment of a ground exclusion zone in southern Iraq is one of the measures being considered to counter any future possible Iraqi threat to Kuwait.

At the end of a meeting with the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the British foreign secretary added that other measures are also being considered. Nonetheless, he declined to elaborate further on these measures.

France's Juppe on Ground Exclusion Zone in South

JN1210190494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] French Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard said today, Wednesday, in the aftermath of a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand that Iraq has not violated UN resolutions. At a news conference held after a French inner cabinet meeting attended by Mitterrand, Leotard added that there is nothing illegitimate about the movement of Iraqi troops within Iraqi boundaries. He went on to say that France is interested in Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN resolutions. He noted that France has noted the progress made in the field of disarmament mentioned in a report submitted by Ekeus.

Commenting on the same inner cabinet meeting this morning, French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe said that France supports expanding the demilitarized zone set up on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders. [sentence as heard] He added that Westerners can ease the pressures after ensuring that the Iraqi troops have been withdrawn. Then, the whole episode could be considered a thing of the past, he said.

The United States is considering the establishment of a ground exclusion zone in southern Iraq. Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative to the United Nations, said in New York yesterday evening that the idea of establishing such a zone was raised during consultations the United States held with other members of the UN Security Council.

French Position Commended

JN1210203794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Iraq has welcomed the statement made by French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe to the effect that France does not support the expansion of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the statement made by French Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard that Iraq has not violated the relevant UN resolutions.

In a comment on the two statements, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Iraq appreciates this fair French position, which is opposed to the attempts being made by some ill-intentioned parties to interfere in its domestic affairs and create crises to prolong the embargo clamped on its people.

The foreign minister added that Iraq welcomes this French position.

After a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppe said that France does not support the expansion of the demilitarized zone created between Iraq and Kuwait. He added that Westerners can ease the pressure, particularly since it has been proven that the Iraqi troops have been withdrawn and that the whole episode is now over.

Meanwhile, French Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard announced after the meeting that Iraq has not violated the relevant UN resolutions, and that there is nothing illegitimate about Iraqi troop movements within the boundaries of Iraq. He added that France is interested in obtaining compliance with the UN resolutions.

Exclusion Zone Termed U.S. 'Scandalous Proposal'

JN1310093094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0721 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has noted that the U.S. proposal on the so-called exclusion zone constitutes a new violation and is opposed by France, Russia, and China.

The paper says the United States has called for a discussion of this scandalous proposal, instead of discussing Ekeus' report, in an attempt to delay and procrastinate and to blackmail the UN Security Council into bearing responsibility for an insolent new U.S. position.

The paper adds that the statements made by the French defense and foreign ministers following their meeting with French President Mitterrand yesterday embarrassed the Americans and exposed the isolated U.S. position.

The paper stresses that the Americans could not even promote their "heresy" on what they call the ground exclusion zone to the Western media. Jonathan Marcus, the BBC Radio's defense correspondent, yesterday said this constitutes a infringement of Iraq's sovereignty. The paper notes that they, the Americans, were able to promote this proposal only among their agents in the Arabian Gulf during a meeting U.S. Secretary of State Christopher held with them in Kuwait yesterday. The paper says that Christopher achieved his goal from that meeting; namely, to milk them. They decided to finance the U.S. and allied moves in the region and to place the military installations of the Arabian Gulf states at the disposal of the Americans and their allies.

The paper stresses that the Iraqi people and that Arab and world public opinion are now fully aware that the tendentious, hostile U.S. political position is worsening. It is revealing the hidden rancor harbored against the Iraqi people by the U.S. evil and its agents, who seek to slowly annihilate Iraq through the unjust embargo and the fabrication of a military, political, and media escalation due to Iraq's decisive stand to lift this embargo.

The paper also criticizes Ekeus' procrastinations and the report he presented to the UN Security Council. The paper says the report is full of falsifications and contradictions, fails to establish a specific time-frame for monitoring, and does not indicate that Iraq is fulfilling its commitments. The paper says that Ekeus has reneged on all his promises and was exposed as a key executer of the U.S. position through the technical cover under which he is hiding.

The paper adds: Thus, Ekeus has completed his base conspiratorial role against Iraq. At the same time, the historical Iraqi leadership's analysis and assessments as regards Ekeus position and the consequences of his report were proved correct. Consequently, the wise Iraqi position was a splendid preemptive action to expose the conspiratorial U.S. position against Iraq and its heroic people, as well as the attempts to encroach on them by denying them food and medicine.

MIO Director Interviewed on Ekeus Report to UN

JN1210085794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, MIO director, "on the report submitted to the Security Council today by Rolf Ekeus" on 11 October; from Baghdad Television "People's Talk" program, moderated by Faysal al-Yasiri—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Yasiri] We will meet with Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, MIO, and official in charge of the technical aspects of the relationship with the technical committee, that is, with [Chairman of the UN Special Commission Rolf] Ekeus. You are welcome, Your Excellency.

[Rashid] Thank you.

[Al-Yasiri] Would you speak to our viewers about this report?

[Rashid] In fact, Mr. Faysal, there are two reports: The first report was submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] three days ago, and the second report was submitted by the Special Commission to the Security Council today. In addition to the copy you have with you, we also have with us the final copy, which was submitted to the Security Council members. We will today focus on the Special Commission's report because the commission is linked with the Security Council, unlike the IAEA, which is independent from the Security Council. Also, we all know the political pressure that has been exerted on the work of the Special Commission by some influential members of the Security Council. This is very important in explaining the report submitted today. It is hoped that the report will be discussed by the Security Council members within two or three days.

[Al-Yasiri] We learned that this report consists of 15 pages with 25 pages of appendixes. Would you give us a roundup of the main contents of this report? What do the 15 pages contain?

[Rashid] Before dealing with the contents, I would like to point out that this report is periodic; one is submitted every six months from the date on which Resolution 715 was issued. Resolution 715, which was issued in October 1991, stipulates that every six months—that is in April and October of each year—the Special Commission will report to the Security Council on what has been achieved regarding the continuous monitoring. Monitoring plans are attached to the resolution. The reports are submitted twice a year. So, this is the time for presenting a report. The international community, our dear citizens, and we, as officials, are very much interested in this because of the nature of the issue. Iraq has reached a decisive stage in terms of fulfilling its obligations to the Security Council in accordance with its resolutions and in accordance with the many plans of the Special Commission. This requires the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687; namely, lifting the oil embargo on Iraq to meet the basic requirements of its people in terms of food and medicine.

We want to explain these things and show, in another meeting with you, what has been achieved by Iraq. Today, however, we will only discuss the report of the Special Commission and the remarks [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] You have followed the meetings held in Iraq and New York. Can we say that Iraq was very cooperative in order to foil all excuses for continuing the blockade?

[Rashid] Iraq showed more cooperation than what was required by the resolutions and the Special Commission's plans. The plans are an elaboration of what is in the resolutions. Iraq, represented by those in charge of following this issue, showed more cooperation than what was required to disprove the excuses for prolonging the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people and to ease their suffering. This is the objective. Furthermore, we believed that we should implement the resolution despite the fact that it is unjust and strict. We noticed that whenever we implemented something, they would come up with another issue. While reviewing the report today we will notice that there is a lot said about great achievements, but there is always a little something that is still undone.

The French foreign minister said: One year ago, Ekeus told me what was left was only a little bit; six months ago, he also told me what was left was only a little bit; and 15 days ago, he told me the same thing.

You see this how much this little bit took. So, today we will deal with this issue.

My answer to your question is the following: The report is a long one, as you said. It consists of 15 pages. It deals with everything Iraq has implemented and the Special Commission's implementation of its tasks. There are also appendixes. We will discuss the preamble in detail and explain the idea of the monitoring system. We will touch on three basic paragraphs: one regarding Iraq's special programs, one regarding the so-called protocols and their completion, and one regarding the testing of the monitoring system, about which much has been said. The third item in the report deals with the measures to implement the monitoring plans [words indistinct], the mechanism of monitoring imports and exports, and then it deals with the future measures required from the Special Commission. The third and last paragraph deals with the conclusions, which are the most important thing in the report. Then comes the appendixes.

[Al-Yasiri] Can we take one item at a time to explain its importance to the citizens? Let us take for example the preamble of the first item?

[Rashid] The first item is, in fact, a summary of the report. The first item of the report, which we received this morning, as we translated, notes that this report is considered a very important step in the development of the commission's work. In particular, it contains details that will strengthen the conclusion that will be included in the sixth item; namely, the system of continuous monitoring that is operating on a temporary basis. This is one of the major points of controversy. The monitoring system is in fact in full operation with all the complications and components they added to it. Despite this, the preamble says that (?it is temporary).

[Al-Yasiri] I would like to note here that in this copy the word "temporary" is handwritten. This means that at the beginning it was not included in the report.

[Rashid] As a result of the pressure on the Special Commission some amendments were made at the last moment, taking into consideration the political pressure on the commission.

He [Ekeus] says in the preamble that some specific factors are not operational. However, much of the preparatory work has been accomplished. Alternative measures are being taken to fill in the gaps. Therefore, the Special Commission can confidently embark on the testing of the system. In other words, the phase of testing the system and its efficiency will begin and the rest of the factors will become operational within a short time, without defining (?a period of six months).

[Al-Yasiri] Let us move to the second item, the concept of the monitoring system?

[Rashid] The report explains to the Security Council members that the monitoring system is a periodic activity to inspect materials, to make an inventory of all materials of dual usage [istikhdam muzdawij], and to follow up the use of these materials. We, of course, are summarizing what is in the report. Among the other important activities of the inspection are conducting aerial surveillance and planting sensors, such as cameras, electronic bugs in equipment and seals, remote-controlled sensor devices in water that [words indistinct]. They also collect information from external intelligence sources. There are also methods of notification on what Iraq imports in terms of materials of dual usage. The term dual usage was used after Resolution 687 in the monitoring plans attached with Resolution 715. The term is used to describe materials and equipment that can be used for one thing, but could also be used or support banned activities. Therefore, such materials and equipment will be monitored. Thus, the concept of monitoring is related to dual usage. This paragraph notes that imports and exports will be monitored when the economic sanctions on Iraq are lifted. However, with the existence of the blockade this does not apply.

He also notes that confidence in the effectiveness of this system depends on three basic paragraphs: The first paragraph: The Special Commission should have a comprehensive picture of Iraq's program so that all the information is complete, in addition to full information on current programs related to dual usage. Second, he says: Even in [words indistinct] we will set up a monitoring system. We, in fact, have no objection to this. B [as heard]: He notes that he should complete the comprehensive protocols for monitoring positions that have materials and activities of dual usage. Then he add a paragraph, that was not included in the plan, on the successful test of the monitoring system. The issue of testing was raised by the media and [word indistinct] Security Council. The objective of the testing is to lay down a clear understanding of how to operate the elements of the monitoring system. He believes that one of the elements of the system is Iraq's cooperation, as if we are waiting for the monitoring system to test Iraq's cooperation. We have been with them for four years, and (?one year) has passed since we recognized Resolution 715. Why now do they want to test Iraq's cooperation?

He also says testing aims at evaluating the performance of the elements of the system separately and collectively, as if the elements of the system have not been installed for a long time. As you know, the cameras have been installed since the summer of 1993. You know the problem that took place. The issue of (?helicopters) has been going for more than two years [words indistinct]. All these components were tested, but despite this, he says they should be tested.

Brother Faysal, the text of the paragraph aims at distracting attention from what Iraq has implemented in its commitments. Iraq is only required to cooperate with the Special Commission in performing its tasks. Iraq's cooperation has been more than what was required. We will elaborate on this in the next episode [of the interview]. The Iraqi citizens are waiting to see if the monitoring system is accomplished although this system has nothing to do with [word indistinct] Iraq and is not a condition for lifting the oil embargo on Iraq. The condition for lifting the oil embargo on Iraq is for Iraq to fulfill its commitments, and not for the Special Commission to carry out its tasks...

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Not testing?

[Rashid] The testing has no legal basis. This is the sixth report. In the six reports there is no mention of a testing period because it has no basis and is not even included in the UN resolutions [words indistinct]. It was an idea presented during a meeting with me in September 1993. Ekeus made this proposal in one of his reports to the Security Council. He said in a joint minutes that there should be a testing period. This was in September 1993. This testing period is interlinked with the other monitoring activities. [words indistinct] We now note that he says in the preamble: The testing period began. It is as if there was no testing throughout the entire period.

[Al-Yasiri] We know that the testing period must not be independent, but interlinked and within the monitoring process itself.

[Rashid] It is interlinked and within the monitoring process. Also, he says this in his previous report in (?September).

[Al-Yasiri] Dear viewers, before we move on to the third item in Ekeus' report, which will be submitted to the Security Council within hours, we would like to say that the translation you see on the screen is a very brief summary of each item. For example, the English text of the second item, which the lieutenant general explained a short while ago, is very long. This is only a precise translation and a summary of the contents. We now move on to the third item in Ekeus' report, which, I think, is the longest.

[Rashid] Yes, because it is on the so-called required measures to implement the monitoring plan. It exploits the complexity of the system, which they themselves designed to be complex and to be of this size and detail to justify the claim that implementation takes time. Now we will discuss paragraphs—and I will skip many and not comment on them because I am sure of the citizens' intelligence in [words indistinct] paragraphs.

[Al-Yasiri] Due to their complexity, as you have said.

[Rashid] Yes. In the third item of the report, Ekeus says: The monitoring plan should depend on full clarity and knowledge of all previous Iraqi capabilities, as well as complete information on present activities [words indistinct]. He then begins to attack and say that Iraq was late in accepting Resolution 715 and that the documents [al-i'lanat] were presented only in November 1993. This, in fact, is a cheap lie because Iraq has, right from the beginning, said: I am ready to cooperate in accordance with Resolution 687 and implement the monitoring measures if the purpose of monitoring is not to return to (?banned activities). Resolution 715 has some paragraphs that encroach on our sovereignty, stability, and security. However, Iraq recognized the resolution when it made pledges and gave guarantees to Ekeus without going into details. The second point is that we presented the documents in June 1992. More correctly, we presented a draft in March 1992, that is, four months after the resolution. We told them: This is the draft. If you have any comments, tell us so that [words indistinct]. He then said he would not recognize them, meaning it is for the Security Council members to decide. He told them: Iraq did not present the documents in accordance with the resolution because it does not recognize it. All documents presented by Iraq, which were updated twice, are thus considered invalid. Not everyone can realize....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] And discover that, too.

[Rashid] He also said: Iraq has also obstructed or halted the implementation of some monitoring activities. He said that although some of his five previous reports spoke about Iraq's cooperation and that monitoring activity is under way [preceding word in English]. But here he comes and speaks about obstruction. Therefore, the Special Commission was not in a position to begin the implementation of the plan [words indistinct] except in November 1993, even if Iraq [words indistinct]. As I have explained, he says: We began to secure funds for the erection of a monitoring system as soon as possible and have taken measures to increase the cadres. Accordingly, he added, we sent 29 inspection teams in 10 months from November to date. These included 24 monitoring teams [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] If calculated mathematically—and I am fond of mathematics—we find that if each of the 29 teams comes for a week, that will be 29 weeks, that is, over half a year.

[Rashid] Yes, more than six months of confidence building. Moreover, it was made clear and even engraved in the minds of the Security Council members that the monitoring system is complicated and its tasks are tremendous and that it requires [words indistinct] high-level specialized cadres [words indistinct]. These require new technological usages. We have thus got involved into a topic of something like research and development. [passage indistinct]. All are applied in one way or another, not in this intensity or depth. [words indistinct] We told him: We are ready to place 150-200 Iraqi engineers and technicians at your disposal [words indistinct]. He also said: The measures we adopted as a Special Commission to establish the monitoring system required knowledge of previous programs and our understanding of Iraq's programs has developed. Note the word developed. He does not [words indistinct] he does not say: I have developed complete vision. He says the understanding developed, especially in the last [words indistinct]. Now the Special Commission is approaching a comprehensive understanding. By the way, in July he said in English "almost complete." [preceding two words in English] A year ago he said: It is complete and credible, but we must scrutinize it a little. [words indistinct] so that none will say that Iraq fully met its obligations and a part remains. He says: Obtaining a comprehensive picture of Iraq's programs is basic for the monitoring system and we should verify the documents. Actually, this issue of verification is very strange because we do give documents. We [words indistinct] give documents and so we did. For him to verify whether this is credibility or not [words indistinct]. He says: Your information is credible, but should be verified and reach governments, and I am continuing the process of verification and this will take a very short period of time. A year of this very short period has passed. The text reads: The process of verification is continuing because of Iraq. Why? He says: Iraq has not given us documents. We have given him a few documents which were [word indistinct] in the war and he says they have not given them to me. Well, we have explained the whole issue to you. He gave me a letter, which I will show you.

In the letter, Ekeus says that Iraq's description of how the documents were destroyed was a comprehensive, satisfactory, complete, and [words indistinct] description. He also said that a letter would be sent to me in person to end the documents issue. Now, he [words indistinct], so he would introduce an item designed to prolong the issue and keep it open. Therefore, and because there are no documents, the Commission must naturally inspect a lot, hold contacts, and contact governments. As you know, this takes time and it is its objective to make things complex.

Despite the fact that the Special Commission obtained additional information, this information is somewhat inconsistent. For example, he once said: The Netherlands Government gave us information on the chemical materials which greatly differs from the information you gave us.

In the meeting with the [Iraqi] deputy prime minister, the British ambassador at the (?United Nations) told us that [words indistinct]. Our information is indeed different from [words indistinct]. The reason is—notice the tampering with words—that we gave [information] six times as much as what the Netherlands Government told them...

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] We gave them more [information].

[Rashid] Six times as much. It is true that—and notice the falsification of facts—we gave them six times as much because some firms are engaged in trade and do not produce chemical materials; they bring these materials from other states. When they contacted the producing company, it gave them the information it has. Naturally, this is one aspect of inconsistency in the [word indistinct]. Iraq should provide additional information. Hence, he is talking about a coming issue. You always (?offer] a little [words indistinct], and that Iraq has frequently complied with this, and so on.

Afterward, he discussed the documents on the current capabilities. We already discussed the previous programs, Mr. Faysal. We will now discuss the Iraqi documents on the current permissible capabilities which they will also be included in their monitoring even outside the framework of Resolution 715 and the plans attached to it. He says there are things which are lacking and that the documents are inefficient.

In fact, Mr. Faysal, since October and November 1993, we, as technicians who are aware that this is only a game, have been insisting that the information we give will be considered by them as being insufficient; they, for example, say the coordinates are wrong, some details are lacking. We told them that in order to end this issue to give us a questionnaire [words indistinct], so we will give specific answers. We continued to demand these questionnaires until they gave them to us on 3 January 1994. Our technicians were completely mobilized in 10 days, day and night, and we prepared for them approximately 6,000 pages of information.

Naturally, they were astonished. However, they mentioned some administrative technical errors here and there which are not [word indistinct] mistakes. These errors include, for example, definitions [words indistinct]. They kept saying: We agree [words indistinct] until they reach [words indistinct] the biological [weapons]. As I explained to the foreign [word indistinct], while dealing with the biological weapons they reached the level of chicken hatcheries, which naturally we did not announce. For example, on such an issue or [word indistinct], or alcohol affairs [words indistinct]—which are actually petty details, and some of them are only laboratory affairs and are even present at the level of secondary education. They told us that we should declare them because they considered them as something lacking.

[words indistinct] tell us, so we will give it to them. This is no problem. Our people's suffering is above all considerations. Afterward, Ekeus said the task's magnitude and complications are great, as proved by the fact that we, and Iraq, are facing many difficulties. We visited sites [words indistinct] and found people who would (?begin) to discuss this issue. Thus, problems arise. Later, it was obvious in the basic point in the monitoring system; namely, the so-called (?basic by-inspection) [preceding two words in English]—I believe this is clear in the piece of information before us—it is duty—bound to assess whether this issue will be included in the monitoring or not, whether to put stickers on it, whether to install cameras on the equipment. Ekeus explains that 27 specialized inspection teams came, in addition to many visits made by small groups. If you allow us to wait for...

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] They are present before us, Your Excellency Lieutenant General. [words indistinct] these basic inspections.

[Rashid] Ekeus adds: We also sent groups in addition to 27 inspection teams. Some 27 inspection teams since the beginning of 1994. Despite the fact that this process cannot be a complete one—notice the language constantly used to keep things [words indistinct—the Special Commission has [words indistinct]. Chemical [words indistinct] in the site, and in the biological [weapons] there are loopholes, and the Commission completed all the inspections and [words indistinct]. In other words, [words indistinct] the intention to put pressures.

In the next item, we read: installing the sensors and placing the stickers—this is also clearly shown to the brother viewers. Moreover, the basic inspections allowed the Special Commission to study how to install the cameras and stickers and how to accomplish this mission regarding all dual usage equipment. There is [words indistinct] short-range missiles [?60-90 km] which are included in the monitoring, and which, from their viewpoint, may be developed to a range exceeding 150 km, which are banned. They placed stickers on these missiles too, [words indistinct] Iraq.

In the chemical field, devices to test the air were installed in the al-Muthanna site. They are now planning to install 20 other devices, in addition to the monitoring cameras. There are also counters which measure how many chemical materials are poured into the process [preceding word in English]; namely, the permissible process of producing chemicals. He explains this.

In the biological field, he says: We also placed stickers on the main equipment, part of which will now complement the [words indistinct]. Afterward, he talks about a plan to install cameras in the biological sites. He explains that funds and equipment are required to implement the plan on the biological [weapons] because [words indistinct] at the news conference, one of the governments [word indistinct] cameras, so the biological issue will remain open, and so he will not say all cameras were (?installed). They are now [words indistinct]. They are now searching for funds, [words indistinct] a government, or a supplier so they can bring [words indistinct] and so he can say that the monitoring system have been completed.

[Al-Yasiri] I am tempted, although I am not a specialist, to comment. You must want to comment. The fourth item on the mechanics of the identity of imports...

[Rashid, interrupting] The fourth item addresses the so-called import and export mechanism laying the bases [word indistinct] the International Atomic Energy Agency. A matter of a month [words indistinct] in a mechanism whereby Iraq would inform the Special Commission that it intends to import something, and the exporting nations to Iraq to communicate to the Special Commission that they intend to export, and this applies only to the materials subject to inspection, the so-called dual usage materials.

[Al-Yasiri] The fifth item is about the future procedures?

[Rashid] If you will permit me, we made our observations on this...

[Al-Yasiri] The fourth item?

[Rashid] The fourth item—the import mechanism—and it was (?taken into consideration) and it is now hoped they be lifted [words indistinct] that are, in fact, taking a hard line, and even certain major nations objected to it [words indistinct]. Yet, they will, as usual, pass it at the Security Council, the object being to curb Iraq's industrial and scientific advancement. We have tried to minimize the effects [words indistinct], and the problem remains [words indistinct]. It shows [word indistinct] that removing the sanctions, there is a Sanctions Committee, then what will things be like? Our position is that since Iraq is under sanctions, this mechanism is not required. When the sanctions are lifted, this mechanism will dismantled. [words indistinct] and the countries and Iraq will have to take a stand before [words indistinct]. That shows that it must take effect and it is preferable that this happens before the oil ban is lifted. [word indistinct] use terms, but we hope that will be completed in the near future. The near future is a loose term. The future measures...

[Al-Yasiri] In accordance with the fifth item.

[Rashid] The fifth item shows his problems in numerous paragraphs [words indistinct] subdivisions in this item. The first paragraph addresses the financial aspect. The financial aspect, the financial matters [words indistinct] shows that they ran out of money, which may hinder the implementation of the inspection plan. Even the inspection becomes a rule [words indistinct]. It is noted in the [words indistinct] document and it must [words indistinct] in this subject. Paragraph B shows the future operations that they will undertake and that there will be as a (?result) of the inspection center of Baghdad [words indistinct] inspection plans, how they will check that the information [words indistinct] from Iraq about the positions of dual usage are correct and continuing and conduct an inventory of them. How they will continue the aerial surveillance to make sure that Iraq does not return [words indistinct] to the (?prohibited) [word indistinct] from their point of view with their [word indistinct] aircraft, helicopters, how he gets information through the computer, how also to get experts to monitor certain technologies and revise this subject, and then the deleterious Paragraph C states that the annexes on the inspection plans, which specify the materials that have a dual usage. He says that these must be revised in light of the import and export mechanism [words indistinct], to revise them in the light of the expertise that the Special Commission has gained through its [words indistinct]—to be revised, he says, because Iraq has asked him to reconsider the annexes so that things get clearer to him. This is a fallacy. On the contrary, we asked him to reconsider them periodically in order for them to be compatible with the international agreements on disarmament. The text says that [words indistinct] to assist Iraq the understanding what is covered by this (?plan) [last 11 words in English]. Meaning that Iraq does not understand the matter, and in order for it to understand, they expand the (?details) at a time [word indistinct] explaining to them at an expanded conference in New York that was attended by about 25 experts, (?who said) what are you disputing: Disarmament and violations? You know that they (?believe) in details and said we must address this through the periodic revisions. Now, if you like let's come to the sixth and important item that we sought not so much to condense as to translate it clearly. It is made up of six key paragraphs that say that the institution of the inspection system is a highly complex and big affair and cannot take place without difficulty. The Special Commission thinks that the key elements—note the words and how they are used. The key elements of a comprehensive system are now part of the work. Only the key elements for those that are not are not covered. There are plans to introduce technical additions to the system in the very near future, [word indistinct] words to enhance its efficiency. In light of the above-mentioned progress, the Special Commission's system for sustained monitoring is temporary.

[Al-Yasiri] The temporary system added...

[Rashid, interrupting] You have the copy...

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] The [word indistinct] copy, we note that in the first half, the word temporary does not occur in this paragraph...

[Rashid, interrupting] But it was added with pencil...

[Al-Yasiri] It was added with a pencil and I underlined it in red and it became a key part of the subject.

[Rashid] This is indicative of an important point; namely, that testing the comprehensiveness and efficiency of this system has started. As a matter of fact, this is an important and positive point that I would like to underscore.

In Paragraph 2 of his report, to underscore the importance of testing the system, Ekeus does not state that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments. He says that a sufficient operation record is required to ensure that the full-blown monitoring system provides the Security Council with guarantees that it is actually possible to obtain Iraq's constant fulfillment of its commitments regarding the nonreacquisition of weapons. He is inserting sentences that have nothing to do with his mission. Iraq is required to fulfill its commitments. Such fulfillment of commitments should result in lifting the sanctions. This paragraph states that the guarantees should be provided to the Security Council, and not to the [U.S.] Senate. This ostensibly appears sensible and irreproachable. This will eventually take place. The important thing is not to lay exaggerated emphasis on Iraq's commitments, but rather to underscore the missions of the Special Commission. Then, he addresses technological developments, and mentions in the last sentence, as you can see, the growth of the Iraqi economy. Growth in the Iraqi economy, according to him, should prompt a modification of the monitoring system to take this factor into account.

Afterward, Ekeus says that an essential factor for an effective operation of the system lies in the measures Iraq is willing to take to fulfill its obligations per the approved plans, as if this issue had not been confirmed and adhered to. We strongly adhere to this. If Iraq handles the operation of the monitoring system properly, extending to it the same degree of cooperation it has demonstrated thus far to contribute to its launching, then there is room for optimism, Ekeus argues. That is, he has not settled the issue.

[Al-Yasiri] This is an acknowledgement of the cooperation extended thus far.

[Rashid] The acknowledgement is good. Nonetheless, he has failed to consummate this acknowledgment. He says that the executive director [of the Sanctions Committee] will brief the UN Security Council on the situation once very month through an oral briefing so that the Council may reach the necessary conclusions at the appropriate time. The reference here is to the implementation of Paragraph 22 and the lifting of the oil embargo clamped on us per Resolution [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] Lt. Gen. Rashid: This is an excellent summary of the first 15 pages of the report submitted by Ekeus, which will be distributed among the UN Security Council members today. As we have learned, there are annexes to the report. Could you inform us about these annexes, which come to 25 pages.

[Rashid] Mr. Faysal, in the annexes, Ekeus provides details, as is clear in the information in front of us. In the first annex, he addresses the monitoring activities. He delves into details regarding the missiles issue. In the details, he says that the basic elements of the missiles monitoring system are now [words indistinct]. He has not used the term [words indistinct] elements. He adds that the protocols have not been completed. He goes on to say that the relevant information provided by Iraq is [words indistinct]. He then inserts a sentence, saying that the Special Commission will continue its investigations regarding Iraq's previous missile programs to ensure Iraqi compliance. That is, he inserted a tendencious sentence at the end of this paragraph. Then, in the missiles annex, he details the missions the inspection teams have carried out. As a matter of fact, the Iraqi side has done a great deal of work in this regard. But, regrettably, he has failed to note the efforts made by the Iraqi side in this regard. He only notes his commission's efforts and the accomplishments achieved. He also explains how he reached the conclusions that we have read about in the body of the original report. At the end of the missiles paragraph, he concludes by saying that he has sent a team of missiles experts to serve as monitors. They are currently working in Iraq. They are rotated every three months. Their task is to conduct site inspections without advance warning to ensure that Iraq is complying with the monitoring system and fulfilling its obligations as enshrined in the relevant plans. He says that their role is necessary, particularly since it was they who installed cameras and pickups [words indistinct].

Afterward, he touches on his commission's past experience with Iraq with regard to missiles. He says that we have made an enormous effort and provided a great deal of information. He adds that the Iraqi documents have been verified. However, he adds that the UN Special Commission still needs to verify some issues regarding supply sources for some equipment and programs. This will take some time, he says. We have started efforts in this regard, he adds.

Mr. Faysal: In October 1993, an official report submitted to the UN Security Council in the form of joint minutes, cosigned by Iraq and the UN Special Commission, says that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations per the resolution [No. 687]. But right now, some verification is needed regarding some [words indistinct], his new report says. Then, Ekeus says that the information provided by Iraq is in harmony with the information that we have. Nonetheless, some clarifications need to be (?obtained). He then explains the monitoring measures. He points out how 30 missile sites [words indistinct] missiles. The sites are [words indistinct]. Any site that is likely to be used to produce a missile part is deemed by Ekeus a legitimate target of monitoring. He says that the missile sites exceeded 30. He also explains how their cameras were installed in large numbers. They total some 58 cameras. He also adds that the inspectors have tagged 200 pieces of equipment, and 1,300 short-range missiles with a range of 50-150 km range. He provides details on these issues. He adds: Given the fact that we have resident monitors in Iraq, that we have cameras in place, that we have inspection teams coming from the United States, and that we have planes that are conducting aerial survey and air reconnaissance, our basic duty at present is to [words indistinct] monitoring system. He adds that some elements—not all elements but some elements of the monitoring system—are now in place and operational. There is a relevant analogy with Resolution 242. [passage indistinct] the missiles annex to explain the context.

With regard to chemical weapons, the same approach was used. Yet, Ekeus notes how some gaps in the information Iraq provided on its chemical weapons production were filled. He adds that the commission personnel were compelled to hold several rounds of talks [with us] to obtain relevant details. The interview might not give us sufficient time to go into details regarding this issue. The important thing is his acknowledgement that the Special Commission is now in the final stage. He mentions the many inspection teams they have sent. He concludes by saying that there are currently resident inspectors, who are rotated every three months. The resident inspectors arrived in Iraq on 2 October. These inspectors are currently inspecting the sites of chemical sensors and pickups. They are collecting and and analyzing information. They have an overall picture regarding the monitoring system. However, he says that the previous Iraqi chemicals programs is not extremely clear. Hence, I cannot put a monitoring system in place if I am not well aware of everything, Ekeus argues. As a matter of fact, he is well aware of everything. He is much more aware of this issue than many specialists. This is because his inspectors have an overall and complete picture of the situation. They have all analyzed this. However, he always wants to keep the issue vague and verifiable so that there is always an excuse for prolonging the [sanctions].

Ekeus also mentions the means of monitoring, the sites monitored, and pickups.

With regard to the chemical weapons, there is a basic issue that has to be addressed, Mr Faysal: Ekeus says that he must oversee the level of chemical research at universities and institutes to ensure that this level will not allow Iraqis to produce components that could be used in chemical warfare.

Every time they raise an issue. This is the first time [words indistinct] but take notice of a new issue. [word indistinct] every condition is met and he has no pretexts, he raised a new issue [words indistinct].

In the biological field. They [word indistinct] the expansion. They had 35 sites. They entered 28 sites, 24 sites, they want six other sites. He explains how they entered the universities and technical institutes and that the Iraqis dealt with them but there are still contradictions and some of the information must be scrutinized. He admits that they entered milk (?factories), the frozen food stores, alcohol and fertilizer factories, factories of oils and fatty materials. He explains this. He said this is a very extensive work. It takes time. Therefore, we have not sent observers in the biological field. We will send two to you [word indistinct] in the near future.

Then he discusses in detail the inspection teams that he sent. Then he discusses the nuclear [word indistinct], saying that this is not within our responsibilities but within the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. At the beginning of the meeting, you [word indistinct]. But he says that as a special commission, we support their activities and fix sites [word indistinct], we supervise the Gamma and Beta rays, we help in analyzing and [word indistinct] of the water until we are certain [word indistinct]. He concludes in the last annex by speaking about the aerial surveys and how they carried out 500 aerial surveys by helicopters during this period without any warning. The monitoring system was still not [word indistinct]. It was still temporary. Iraq sincerity about cooperating was still to be tested. They carried out 500 aerial surveys and not by [word indistinct] and without any [word indistinct], that is directly. They went to a site and they informed us about how they are building laboratories of distillation and chemical analysis.

In the last annex, he refers to the Baghdad center. Only here, we find him referring to Iraq's cooperation in preparing the center [word indistinct] and meeting its [word indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] Monitoring center?

[Rashid] Monitoring center. In the last paragraphs, he discusses the issue of the financial and administrative needs. [words indistinct]. This is a brief [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] Surely, general, you have many comments, explanations, and replies to these things given your experience, dealings, and knowledge. Our aim has been to explain to our citizens the basic contents of the Ekeus report which [words indistinct] explains its (?level) and which was handed today, Tuesday, to the UN Security Council members. I believe that next Thursday it will be discussed in the Security Council. That is what we expect.

We thank Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, MIO head, who was also responsible for the technical aspects of the links with the Special Commission which was headed by Ekeus. I believe we will have another meeting.

[Rashid] But I would like to explain that many citizens [words indistinct] did not see in the report Iraq's commitment or its abidance by the implementation of its obligation in accordance with the resolutions, implementing Paragraph 22 of the oil embargo. This paragraph [words indistinct] early warning on the next meeting, has connection only with the [words indistinct], political issue with Iraq. Monitoring, [words indistinct] programs. All these are [words indistinct]. We observed [words indistinct], how many, 40 pages. Nowhere do we see that Iraq met its obligations [words indistinct]. Whereas this time last year, he himself told us that Iraq was very close to meeting its obligations in accordance with paragraphs so and so. So let us see how the political pressure is manifesting itself, saying what the Special Commission has implemented and what Iraq has implemented. He has not settled the issue by explaining that Iraq has honored its commitments. He did so because if he were to provide such an explanation, it would be the basis for lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq.

I thank you very much for giving us this opportunity.

[Al-Yasiri] Thank you, general, but in fact I wanted to address a question to you. You said that there is a report every six months, and this is the sixth report. I wanted to ask if you observed any differences or changes but I think we better postpone this for the next meeting with you, with the participation of the foreign minister.

Dear viewers, we hope that we have given you an idea of the Ekeus report, which is the topic of hour for us because this is one of the pretexts that they are trying to use to justify the unjust blockade on Iraq.

We thank you for your interest. We wish you happy times.

Baghdad Radio Reports U.S.-Kuwaiti Exercises

JN1310105094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Kuwait, the Army Moral Guidance Department this morning broadcast an announcement to Kuwaiti citizens informing them that U.S. and Kuwaiti troops are conducting exercises using live ammunition in northern Kuwait from this morning and until a further notice.

In its warning to the Kuwaiti citizens, the Kuwaiti Moral Guidance Department says: Based on that, you will hear sounds of explosions and gun fire. We, therefore, urge you to rest assured and not be alarmed because the explosions are the result of these exercises and not an Iraqi invasion.

More Stateless Arabs Pour Into al-Basrah Tent City

JN1210194094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—The stateless Arabs of Kuwait, along with family members, have continued to pour into the tent city set up south of al-Basrah by the League of the People With Rights [rabitat ashab al-haqq].

Masses of people from the governorates of al-Anbar and Dhi Qar today bade farewell to the third batch of the stateless Arabs of Kuwait, who were heading for the tent city shouting slogans and chants, urging the international community and humanitarian organizations to uphold their just cause and demanding repatriation to Kuwait, their motherland, as well as the restoration of their legitimate rights, which were usurped by the rulers imposed on Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Camp Residents Receive Humanitarian Aid

JN1210193294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 12 Oct (INA)—The League of People With Rights' camp, which over the past two days has received thousands of deported Kuwaitits and other Kuwaitis residing in Iraq, was today the scene of numerous art, cultural, and political events.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY's correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate reports that at a folk poetry session, poets describing their suffering and expulsion from their homeland were read. The poems ridiculed the Kuwait rulers' allegations and celebrated the generous treatment they have been afforded by President Saddam Husayn in hosting them for four years.

Representatives of mass organizations visited the camp and offered humanitarian assistance to the camp residents who are staging a sit-in.

UNICEF Reports on Serious Heath Situation

JN1310112194 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Oct. 13 (INA)—Some 2.5 million Iraqi children, pregnant women and nursing mothers face severe malnutrition because of food shortages, and they are likely to be at risk, a U.N. report released Tuesday [11 October] said.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) confirmed the Iraqi Government's recent cutbacks in food rations mean so fewer calories in the daily diet that women and children risk being severely malnourished.

The U.N. coordinator in Iraq Mohammed Zejjari [name as received] said so far only 25 percent of the amount needed or 72 million dollars out of 288 had been raised by donors.

In announcing the reduced rations late last month, Iraq blamed the cutbacks on a poor harvest and on U.N. sanctions imposed on its people since August 1990.

The latest cuts affected already meager rations, cutting in half such basic staples as rice and sugar. Even before that, many of Iraq's estimated 20 million people were receiving rations covering only half their basic nutritional needs.

"Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers could be seriously affected due to a shortfall of caloric intake of up to 50 percent compared with the energy required," the report said.

Children under age 5 already on the verge of moderate malnutrition "may reach the level of severe malnutrition," it added.

There are 125,000 households with children under one year and 575,000 households with children under 5, according to UNICEF estimates. There are also an estimated 230,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers affected by the food shortages.

In the wake of the embargo imposed on Iraq in August 1990, the government introduced a food ration system whereby everyone was entitled to a basket of essential food items at highly subsidized prices. This rationing system benefit the population throughout the country. The mechanism was considered as equitable and definitely kept starvation at bay in the poorest sections of the society. By late September 1994, the volume of the food basket had gradually increased in terms of quantity and caloric value to reach 1,770 calories per day per person, this represented 70 percent of energy required.

The 30 percent shortfall had to be made up from the free food market. Many families could not fully bridge the shortfall and consequently the nutritional status of children declined as predicted by missions to Iraq led by FAO in mid and late 1993. Government monthly salaries increased between 1990-1994 by a maximum of 100 percent and minimum of 50 percent, but the average government employee still could not afford to buy enough food from the free market for an adequate diet. The price increases of essential food commodities reached over 650 percent in mid-1994 compared with prices in mid-1993.

Nutritional problems are being reported nationwide by the health system with an increase in cases of marasmus and kwashiorkos, severe forms of malnutrition. Results of a study conducted by the government of Iraq/UNICEF March 1994 indicated that severe and moderate malnutrition among children of the age group 0-12 months were 9.2 percent an increase from the previous year.

On September 24, Iraq decided to reduce the subsidized food ration by 37 percent in terms of calorie content, effective 1 October 1994 due to a bad harvest and subsequent shortfalls in quantities of grains received by the government from farmers. A directive issued by the cabinet said that ID [Iraqi Dinars] 2,000 will be paid indefinitely as a monthly allowance to make up for the reduction to specified the national economy in the current circumstances and to achieve social equity.

According to the directive, a wide range of the population are eligible for the monthly allowance of ID 2,000. All civil servants still active in service, military servicemen including police and security forces as well as other special elite forces will receive the allowance individually regardless of their family size. The objective is to enable households to purchase supplementary food items at prevailing commercial prices. The allowance, effective from 1 October 1994, will also be paid to civil servant pensioners of at least 25 years of service, military pensioners, social welfare beneficiaries and war veterans with a disability of 60 percent and over.

The agricultural sector has enjoyed the utmost attention to boost food production as the country has to rely heavily on domestic production to meet local demand. To this effect, the government increased purchase prices significantly between 1990 and 1993. In the course of 1994, four major groups of commodities were enlisted for further subsidies including grains, oil seeds and vegetables. Despite these measures the output remained seriously due to shortages of seeds, herbicides, fertilizers, insecticides and spare parts for agricultural machinery. [sentence as received]

Children, pregnant women and lactating mothers could be seriously affected due to a shortfall of calorie intake of up to 50 percent compared to the energy required. Children under 5 years, already on the edge of mild and moderate forms of undernutrition, may reach the level of severe malnutrition.

The increase in the number of severe malnutrition cases, expected in the longer term, may lead to an increase in infant mortality. The expected increase in low-birth weight as a result of poor nutritional status among pregnant women together with an expected higher infection rate among under nourished children will be contributing factors. Nutritional deficiency may affect the growing brain of young children resulting in deterioration in the intelligence level of the growing population.

Friends' Leaque Members Volunteer To Become 'Fedayeen'

JN0910125294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the General Committee of the Leaders' Friends League, the Council of Baghdad, al-Karkh, announcing the League members' willingness to work as volunteering fedayeen until the last chapter of the showdown pitting right against falsehood is won. They pledged to be cutting swords in the right hand of his excellency the president to chop off the heads of those whose hands have been stained with straining the livelihood of honorable Iraqis so that all Iraqis may be able to cope with the current state of affairs superbly.

Oppositionist on Saddam Troop Movements, Sanctions

AU1210124794 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 10 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Sahib al-Hakim, chairman of the Organization for Human Rights in Iraq, by Thomas Dreger; place and date not given: "Husayn Wants To Get Rid of the Sanctions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dreger] Were you surprised when you heard about the movement of troops to the border with Kuwait?

[Al-Hakim] No, I was not. Saddam Husayn is under pressure—from both outside and inside Iraq. The UN sanctions in particular are putting pressure on the regime. Saddam Husayn wants to do everything possible to get rid of these sanctions and that is why he wants to create unrest in the region. He will definitely let the UN Security Council know that he is not prepared to tolerate the sanctions further. The first signal that he has sent out is: I am still around! Second: If you do not lift the sanctions, I can harm you. Third, he wants to show the Iraqi people: Look, I am doing something for you. It is not I but the West that is responsible for the sanctions, and to get rid of them, there is no other option but to use force. Saddam Husayn only needs to pick up the telephone and to order his officers to advance for the whole world to start talking about him.

[Dreger] Do you think that Saddam Husayn really can send troops across the border?

[Al-Hakim] Yes, he is capable of doing that, because he is not concerned about the population. Whether thousands of people will be killed does not interest him. He is still very strong militarily. That is underestimated in the West.

[Dreger] But the reports about his military strength are contradictory. Just recently, the chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, said that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction had been extensively destroyed. Shortly afterward, the CIA said that Iraq would be in a position to build its own nuclear weapons within a maximum of 10 years.

[Al-Hakim] I do not agree with Mr. Ekeus. Saddam Husayn even hides his missiles in schools. Recall the end of the Gulf war. Then, the commander in chief of the allies, Norman Schwarzkopf, said that between 60 and 70 percent of Iraq's missiles had been destroyed. In the meantime, this has turned out to be wrong.

[Dreger] What should the United Nations or the Gulf allies do now?

[Al-Hakim] The Western governments are not being serious. They allow Iraqi Vice President Tariq 'Aziz to travel round the whole world. They allow Saddam Husayn's half-brother Barsan Takriti [name as published] to set up new Iraqi secret service branches in Europe to supply the Iraqi leadership with military technology. They tolerate the fact that Iraq maintains good contacts with France and Japan. They have done nothing about that. In March 1991, the Iraqi people staged an uprising against Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis then discovered that they did not have the support of the West.

[Dreger] Would a renewed invasion of Kuwait be supported by the Iraqi population?

[Al-Hakim] Not by the majority of the population. However, I must be frank and tell you that part of the Iraqi population believes that Kuwait belongs to Iraq. Saddam Husayn plays a variety of cards.

[Dreger] As Iraqi tanks headed for the border with Kuwait, in New York, Iraqi Vice President Tariq 'Aziz called on the United Nations to lift the embargo against Iraq. As an Iraqi opposition leader, what is your view of the embargo?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi population is suffering as a result of the sanctions, many people are starving. At the same time, the regime's representatives are travelling around the world. Tariq 'Aziz is allowed to address the United Nations. The Iraqi opposition, on the other hand, is not even allowed to enter the UN building. The sanctions affect the victims, whereas the culprits are allowed to move about freely.

[Dreger] Would you support a new military attack against Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] Not if it were like the previous ones. However, there are other ways of supporting the Iraqi people. They include the official UN statement that Saddam Husayn should be made to stand trial. The UN could also use force to compel Saddam Husayn to export oil and use the revenue to buy food and medicines for the population.

Opposition Leader: Only Army Can Topple Saddam

NC1210161794 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irbil, Iraq, Oct 12 (AFP)—Only dissidents within the Iraqi army can overthrow President Saddam Husayn because the ordinary people are too hungry and powerless to do so, the head of an Iraqi opposition coalition said Wednesday [12 October].

Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, told AFP there was "already very widespread" discontent within the Iraqi army.

"The people cannot destroy Saddam Husayn—they are too hungry, running after food every day. They are fed up with him, but powerless. If anyone can do so it is the Iraqi army. We believe they can do it in the not too distant future."

Chalabi said the regular army was "hungry, badly paid" and the elite Republican Guard was "a little better off, but not by much."

"If Saddam Husayn fails this time and is forced to accept a buffer zone this will humiliate the army more and they will be more disaffected with him." [passage omitted]

Chalabi said the INC was "working undercover throughout Iraq, distributing leaflets."

He said the Iraqi troops "have not really withdrawn from the Kuwaiti border."

"They are just moving back and forth in the desert, because Saddam wants to gain time to assess what the Americans are going to do," Chalabi added.

Editorials on Ekeus Report, Possible U.S. Action

Country Said Seeking 'Genuine Peace'

JN1110103594 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 0743 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Unattributed talk]

[FBIS Translated Text] What does the United States want from Iraq? This question is raised by every Arab citizen, in fact, by every person in the world. They said: Iraq should withdraw its armed forces from Kuwait. They then issued Resolution 687 which places a number of commitments on Iraq and called for implementing these commitments as a precondition to lift the blockade. Iraq accepted these commitments to avoid a crisis and confrontation.

When they became certain that Iraq's leadership was serious in implementing its commitments and that it had resorted to the peaceful option to tackle problems with the Security Council, its committees, and representatives, they said that Iraq has not abided by the political aspect of the Security Council resolutions.

Iraq said clearly that it had fulfilled all its commitments, and canceled—through the Revolution Command Council and Iraqi National Assembly—the decisions annexing Kuwait issued after 2 August [1990]. Not only this, Iraq added that it was also ready to discuss any political issues which some believe need solutions within bilateral, Arab, or UN framework.

When there were no more excuses, British Prime Minister John Major said that Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions has nothing to do with the continuation of the blockade. What strange logic is this? We want to know clearly: What do the Americans and British want from our people in sisterly Iraq? And then what do the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia want from our people in sisterly Iraq?

They themselves went beyond the limits of the UN resolutions after Iraq abided by and implemented them. If they aim at harming a people who extended the hand of peace to all, the people of Iraq can prevent this harm and cause it to backfire. The people of Iraq have enough resources and potentials, and before that, they have faith in God and in their historical role.

Iraq's leadership, which has remained steadfast and done its utmost to overcome the effects of the unjust blockade—through relying on the production of the Iraqis—and which tried through the relationship with the Security Council and others to reach positive results—today has the right to ask others to fulfill their commitments. Iraq seeks peace and insists on it. Iraq seeks the peace which safeguards people's rights, opens roads of prosperity, growth, and progress, and prevents the starvation of the Iraqi people. This peace cannot be achieved through following one way. Iraq must resort to every possible way to achieve a just peace.

Those who believe they are dealing with Iraq from a position of strength and that the Iraqis are weak, should review their calculations quickly and be guided by principles of justice and laws. Otherwise, they will only harvest failure. Iraq has started moving along the path of genuine peace.

Paper Warns U.S. Strike Could Be 'Costly'

MM1310095094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 1

[Editorial by Chief Editor 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "It Could Be a Costly Strike"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become clear that the United States is planning a major military strike against Iraq. It has made up its mind, and nothing will stop it from doing that even if all Iraqi forces withdraw north not only to Baghdad, but to Sweden.

President Clinton's administration, which has failed in most of its domestic and foreign policies, is thirsty for an easy victory against an agreed enemy. And there is nothing easier than hitting a besieged, exhausted, and starving Iraq. Especially as Arab states have pledged to pay the costs of this war, just as they paid the costs of the previous war.

The saddening and painful thing is that the new U.S. movements will cost Kuwait and its allies in Saudi Arabia billions of dollars without any real reason. Because Iraq has not moved beyond its borders, nor has it fired a single shot beyond these borders. Kuwait could have used Egyptian and Syrian forces, especially as Iraq has lost most of its teeth and claws. And it is unreasonable if all the Damascus Declaration states, and the billions they have spent on buying the latest aircraft and weapons, are unable to defeat its forces.

Turning to the brothers is cheaper, less costly, and less embarrassing. And it keeps the issue within the family. It also enhances Iraq's standing, cuts others down to size, and exposes their fragility and that of their alliances, leaderships, and armies.

While it is easy for us to predict the shape of this strike and its aims—and they are, of course, to remove the Iraqi regime from power—it is difficult for us to predict the picture of the region in the near future.

It is not possible to say that 250,000 soldiers with all their war materiel and aircraft carriers will go to the region on a short vacation to enjoy its sun and golden sands. The U.S. Administration knew full well that Iraq no longer has the ability to invade Kuwait and that the movement of its forces was aimed at drawing attention to the tragedies its people are suffering under the embargo.

We hope that it will be a short paid holiday. Because any U.S. military involvement in Iraq will not be easier than the involvement in Somalia. It might be useful to remind those who are enthusiastic for a U.S. invasion of Baghdad that the starving Somalis who welcomed the Marines in the early days fought them bravely when they were full, and routed them. We do not believe that the Iraqi people are more hungry than the Somalis or less gallant, honorable, and brave. This people has a civilization going back more than

7,000 years, during which they confronted numerous invaders and arrogant people.

True, Iraqi forces surrendered in their thousands in the second Gulf war and did not inflict huge human losses on the coalition forces, as many people, including us, had expected. That might be attributable to numerous reasons, including the scale of the air strikes, the element of surprise, the lack of nationalist motives, and the desire to preserve the regime. However, it does not mean that the same thing will happen again. All previous factors have changed. The next battle could be this regime's last battle, all the military and popular grassroots support it, and steadfastness, death defiance, and fighting honorably are the only options.

The United States used diplomacy to settle more than one crisis to avert dangerous and costly military confrontations. It did that with North Korea and in Haiti. In fact it negotiated with Mohamed Farah Aidid in Somalia after it had allocated a huge financial reward for his arrest. So why does it not do the same thing in Iraq in order to spare itself and the region as a whole a major catastrophe?

If the Iraqi regime realizes that the United States is after its head, there is nothing strange about its using all the weapons in its possession—banned or unbanned—to defend itself and inflict the heaviest losses on its enemy. One chemical weapon fired in a moment of despair could cause the death of hundreds of thousands. And we are not talking here about the germ and other bombs.

Iraq has withdrawn its forces from the south in response to international efforts and in order to avert the crisis and its complications. So why should this backtracking not be a prelude to a dialogue that draws up solutions to all outstanding issues, including the embargo issue and recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and its new borders?

U.S. military supremacy is not a guarantee of victory, nor is entering Baghdad a guarantee of staying in it. Acre with its walls and the steadfastness of its men was difficult for Napoleon's forces [to capture]. We hope that President Clinton will realize these facts to avert any miscalculations.

Ekeus Seen Playing 'Evil Role'

JN1310095994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stressed that for three and a half years, Ekeus has been a scheming politician playing an evil role to harm Iraq and fight its steadfast people.

In an editorial today, the paper adds: Ekeus' capacity as executive chairman of the Special Commission charged with implementing Section C of Resolution 687 is supposed to be a legal capacity, purely technical in nature. However, he used his position to provide a cover for the U.S. evil to maintain the embargo, which has now entered its fifth year, at the expense of the Iraqi people's food and health.

The paper says: The report Ekeus presented to the UN Security Council sheds light on the true intentions and goals that moved the Special Commission to conceal facts, reveal partial truths, play on words, introduce deliberate ambiguity, and distort the truth about the full and sincere Iraqi cooperation despite all the difficulties and the problems that were fabricated by the inspection teams and their hostile, provocative attempts.

The paper refutes his allegations that Iraq put pressure on him. The paper says: This allegation is refuted by the joint minutes and statements signed by the Iraqi Government, the Special Commission, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The latest of these statements was issued on 5 June 1994 and praised Iraq's positive cooperation. Ekeus also told the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members that without Iraq's cooperation with his commission, it would not have been possible to fulfill its mission as successfully as it did.

The paper concludes by saying: By not indicating Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments as stipulated in Paragraphs 8 to 13 of Resolution 687 and its cooperation with the Special Commission, the commission chairman is confirming that the Americans have not given him the green light to write a fair and impartial report. He, therefore, presented a report which added the word "temporary" to the paragraph on future monitoring. The report, which also includes falsifications and deliberately ignores the facts, confirms to everyone that its author is a deceptive politician who contributed and is contributing to the crime of annihilation that the genuine Iraqi people are being exposed to in the full sight of the world organizations that are supposed to be concerned with the defense of human rights.

Rabin on Kidnapping, Jordan Ties, Christopher

TA1310081094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondents Hayim Zissowitz and Shlomo Raz on 13 October; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you.

[Zissowitz] Did you ask for King Husayn's assistance with contacts with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] aimed at securing the release of soldier Nahshon Wachsman?

[Rabin] I apprised him of the situation, of the government's stand, and of the serious problem with which the government and the Israeli people have to deal in the wake of this dreadful event of the soldier's abduction and the demand for a deal in exchange for his release. I told him, however, that for us this event is a test of the capability of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and of its leader to control and to impose his will in areas that now fall under his jurisdiction under the Cairo agreement, namely, the Gaza Strip and Jericho. I view it as a critical test with far-reaching ramifications for the future.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian police are carrying out a large-scale operation in the Gaza Strip. Is that what we want? Does it satisfy us? Is that the right answer?

[Rabin] It is a start. As I said in two conversations with Chairman 'Arafat: I view the PA and him, as the PLO and PA chief, as responsible for the soldier's safety, well-being, and safe return home. For me, this is the test of all their activities.

[Zissowitz] Yasir 'Arafat's past attitude toward Hamas activists and toward terrorists responsible for attacks can be defined as indulgent to say the least. We witnessed it in the fact that Magidish's murderers were allowed to serve in the Palestinian police and that Hamas activists were released. Do you think this time he will be....

[Rabin, interrupting] So far, they have indeed failed to handle these matters in a desirable manner, but I will not elaborate. That was probably the reason the Hamas men chose to bring the abducted soldier to the Gaza Strip, rather than anywhere else. That is why this event is a crucial test of everything to which we agreed in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and especially in the more specific Cairo agreement, which was derived from the more general DOP. [passage omitted]

[Zissowitz] Is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] considering reentering the Strip for the specific purpose of securing the release of Nahshon Wachsman?

[Rabin] I reiterate: The overall responsibility for the abducted soldier Nahshon Wachsman's well-being and return home lies with the PA and the PLO chief.

[Zissowitz] Have there been direct contacts with Hamas?

[Rabin] We have had no contacts with Hamas. The PA is the address for that. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, last night you and Foreign Minister Peres met with King Husayn. To what extent were you able to draw closer to the goal you established in your Knesset speech—a full Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty by the end of this year?

[Rabin] Look, last night's meeting was a sequel to my meeting with King Husayn and the negotiating teams in al-'Aqabah two weeks ago. We agreed on several options in the two primary spheres of borders and water. We agreed that, on the one hand, each country will respect the other's sovereignty and, on the other, we will seek solutions for the 'Arava settlements' problems. As for water, we discussed the problems both in the 'Arava and in the north, namely those involving the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers.

In the meeting two weeks ago, the king and I agreed to set up teams that will handle the work, and I am happy to say they did some very thorough work in the past two weeks, without media racket and without too much chatter. In view of the teams' achievements, we needed to finalize the issues in a more clear-cut manner in a bid to give the teams further instructions. I believe that a major step toward peace has been made and that peace is definitely within the boundaries of 1994.

[Raz] You said you discussed the 'Arava settlements. Is it possible that one of the settlements will have to be evacuated because the border will change?

[Rabin] No settlement will be evacuated. All the 'Arava settlements were established on sovereign Israeli territory; there is no argument over that. There are certain disagreements with regard to fields and water wells, but there is no question concerning the fate of any Jewish settlement from the Dead Sea to Elat.

[Raz] Before we conclude, Mr. Prime Minister, a question about the Syrian track. You are about to meet with Warren Christopher. I understand this shuttle tour has not bridged the profound gaps in the four issues dividing Israel and Syria.

[Rabin] I really do not know what the secretary of state will bring to his meeting with me. I am convinced that the secretary of state's peace activity, particularly his attempt to bridge the gap over Syria's unwillingness to conduct discussions similar to those we had before we signed the peace agreement with Egypt and the DOP with the Palestinians and similar to our negotiations with the Jordanians on a peace treaty.

In this situation, the secretary of state's shuttles between Damascus and Jerusalem, his attempt to bridge the differences, and his being instrumental in ensuring that the peace negotiations continue play a very important role. I would like to seize this opportunity to voice my appreciation for the United States and the secretary of state for the role they have played.

[Raz] And for achievements?

[Rabin] I will know that only after the meeting. In any event, I suggest that we all refrain from harboring too high hopes for a breakthrough within a short time.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you very much.

[In a similar live telephone interview on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 13 October, Rabin adds: "I heard your report to the effect that the incident between us and the Palestinians is liable to affect the other tracks of the peace negotiations. This statement is totally unfounded. We will continue making progress with Jordan, the present serious entanglement with the PA notwithstanding, and we will continue with Syria and Lebanon as well, if it proves possible. We do not link the negotiations with one Arab interlocutor to the continued negotiations with other Arab interlocutors."]

Kidnapped Soldier Said Slated To Die

TA1210185594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Interview with unidentified masked speaker by correspondent Sulayman al-Shafi on 12 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization tonight set up a meeting between our correspondent and a man who, according to them, is in constant touch with the squad that abducted soldier Nahshon Wachsman. The man, who wore a mask during the interview, said the soldier is alive and is being held in a location that the Israeli Shin Bet will be unable to reach. Our correspondent Sulayman al-Shafi listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shafi] Why are you being interviewed with a face mask on?

[Speaker] For security reasons.

[Al-Shafi] Is the soldier in the Gaza Strip?

[Speaker] He is in a safe place, far from the hands of the Israeli security forces.

[Al-Shafi] Inside the Green Line?

[Speaker] It is a secret.

[Al-Shafi] 'Arafat has appealed to you and asked you to release him at once.

[Speaker] We respect Prime Minister 'Arafat [as heard], but we will not comply with 'Arafat's request, because he is not in charge of Hamas, and he is not in charge of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigade.

[Al-Shafi] The Israeli Islamic Movement has also appealed to you.

[Speaker] We respect them, but we will not comply with anyone's request.

[Al-Shafi] If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not comply with your demands, what will happen to the soldier?

[Speaker] Rabin will be responsible for the soldier's death.

[Al-Shafi] By when?

[Speaker] By the end of the ultimatum.

[Al-Shafi] What day?

[Speaker] On Friday at 2100 [14 October, 1900 GMT] in the evening. [end recording]

As pointed out earlier, we were directed to this man by Hamas leaders who claimed that he maintains ongoing contacts with the abductors. The man himself refused to comment on his role in the affair.

Government Urged To Press 'Arafat on Hamas

TA1110172794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Oct 94 p 2

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "The Lesson of the Attack: No More Slack for 'Arafat"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The main lesson that should be learned by the Israel Government from the Jerusalem terror attack is that with the fullest understanding of 'Arafat's domestic constraints, the time has come to stop cutting him slack. It is impossible to have a situation in which two parties share a political process when only of the parties practically struggles against violent elements which threaten to disrupt the process.

After the riot at the Erez checkpoint several months ago, Israel made it clear to the Palestinians, through economic pressure, that they are also in charge of scrutinizing the people who cross the checkpoint on their way to work in Israel. Now, after the Jerusalem incident, Israel should it make it clear to the Palestinians that their responsibility does not end at police roadblocks. The scrutinizing procedure they should apply at this time means a determined struggle against the opposition elements, which is something 'Arafat has been trying to avoid. He must implement at least one basic Israeli demand—disarming Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Israel should make it clear to 'Arafat that his continuous evasions will have a price, including an economic one. Otherwise, 'Arafat will have no reason to mend his ways. [passage omitted]

The Israel Police invested their best means and men in Jerusalem. On the agenda now is a plan to close Jerusalem which Police Minister Moshe Shahal submitted, and which has so far encountered budgetary problems. The plan is designed to provide better control of people moving in and out of Jerusalem. One of its major elements is transferring Army control of the roadblocks on the roads to Jerusalem over to the police, which requires 300 additional police positions. In any event, additional policemen replace alert citizens.

Security activities around the Gaza Strip can and should be improved until the border fence is fully built. Yet, all the techniques and tactics carried out without Palestinian assistance will not stop individuals who are determined to reach Jerusalem—or any other place for that matter—and carry out suicide terror attacks.

The breaches in the fence should be mended by the Palestinians alone. Israel's Government can and should compel them to do so.

Rabin Says 'Arafat Responsible for Soldier

TA1210152894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and told him that Israel knows with certainty that Nahshon Wachsman is being held inside the Gaza Strip. The prime minister flatly rejected statements made by officials in the Palestinian Authority denying this.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Prime Minister Rabin reiterated that 'Arafat was fully responsible for the life and well-being of Nahshon Wachsman as well as for making sure that the soldier was returned to Israel alive and well.

The prime minister demanded that Yasir 'Arafat immediately fulfill this responsibility.

Talks With PLO Said Only 'Temporarily Suspended'

TA1210133094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Emerging from today's special cabinet session, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur commented on the future of the peace talks with the PLO, which were temporarily suspended after the abduction of Nahshon Wachsman.

[Begin Gur recording] Nobody has announced the termination of the talks. There have been all sorts of interpretations, but the decision was just to recall our delegates for consultations. In the meantime the prime minister has made the necessary contacts all over the world in order to assure that this incident ends peacefully and that the boy is brought back home. This is what we want and we want it at once. Nevertheless, it should be clear to 'Arafat and his aides that the peace process cannot continue unilaterally and that they must do everything, simply everything, to prevent such incidents. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 12 October reports that "the Palestinians are keen to resume the talks in Cairo which were suspended following the abduction of Nahshon Wachsman. Hassan 'Asfur, a member of the PLO delegation, said that although the Palestinians sympathize with Israel's position in the wake of the kidnapping, an overly long hiatus could have a detrimental effect on the peace process."]

Al-Husayni, Hamas Activist Comment on Kidnapping

TA1210145794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Video report by correspondent in territories Yoram Kohen; italicized passages in Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni said today that the Palestinian Authority [PA] was doing everything in its power to return the kidnapped soldier to his parents. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen spoke with al-Husayni and heard the reaction of Shaykh Jamil Hamami, who is a leading Hamas supporter in the West Bank.

[Begin recording] [Hamami] *I am saying that the occupation is the cause of these problems. If the occupation is removed, all the causes....*

[Kohen, interrupting]*So, you do not condemn this incident?*

[Hamami]*The issue is not one of condemning or denouncing, as much as it concerns the Palestinian people assuming their rights. The occupation is the cause of these problems.*

[Kohen]*But this incident has caused problems for the PA?*

[Hamami]*As I told you, it is not possible to discuss matters this way, isolated from the other issues. Now, the ball is in the Israeli court. The Israeli Government must behave rationally.*

[Al-Husayni] I am sorry about what is happening and I would like everyone to behave prudently and not be in mortal peril.

[Kohen] Hamas is making trouble for the PA again. What steps are you taking against this?

[Al-Husayni] Look, the PA is doing absolutely all it can. However, I would like to say that if we want absolute security then we must have full control and this necessitates having full sovereignty. [end recording]

Sha'th Comments on PA Elections, Economic Issues

TA0910154294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, in charge of economic planning in the Palestinian Autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said Friday [7 October] that, if elections were held in the territories today, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad would win less than a quarter of the votes. Hamas would win 15 percent and the Islamic Jihad 7 percent at most. But he said that, if elections are postponed for a long time, the PLO will in the meantime not succeed in meeting the high expectations of the residents of the territories for a better life, thereby increasing the influence of the Palestinian fundamentalist movement.

Dr. Sha'th spoke in Tel Aviv within the framework of the "Managers' Forum" organized by the Open University, which discusses management problems. Several dozen senior Israeli managers and entrepreneurs listened to his remarks.

Dr. Sha'th also said that the Palestinian Autonomy found it necessary to conduct a dialogue with Hamas so that the movement does not block the building of the Palestinian entity in the territories. Sha'th noted that, while holding a dialogue with Hamas, the Palestinian Autonomy makes sure it does not permit Hamas to harm the political process. "Each time Hamas people carry out terrorist actions they are detained by the Palestinian Autonomy, and that temporarily harms the dialogue between the two sides. We must give Hamas the feeling that they are part of the political process and at the same time make sure that we deal with their violations of the process," he said. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Sha'th referred to his concept of the process of setting up the Palestinian Autonomy's economic institutions. He said that he believes that a Palestinian economy should be based on a private market, entrepreneurship, professional manpower, and competition. The model he is basing it on is Japan and other Far East countries, which managed to set up export industries that compete in the world market. Sha'th said that that is what he learned from the collapse of the Soviet economic model. Furthermore, the Palestinians, lacking natural resources and water and with a restricted land area, will not be able to have an agricultural economy, but one based on small industries, such as clothing.

Sha'th said that the Palestinians will cooperate with Israel's economic system in certain fields and that in others they will trade with Arab states. At this stage, 90 percent of Palestinian trade is with Israel.

The Israeli Government at this stage is putting up obstacles to the Palestinian economy by not permitting enough people from the territories to find work in Israel. The Palestinians' main difficulty at this stage is the establishment of economic and administrative institutions because of the delay of the transfer of financial aid. This is due to complex bureaucratic systems in these countries and their readiness to respond immediately only to countries "going up in flames" such as Somalia and Rwanda. Another problem for the Palestinian economy is restrictions on trade with Arab states.

Sha'th said that in the future Israel and the Palestinians will have to cooperate on an equal footing from an economic viewpoint, as part of the process of getting to know each other and in order to together cope in certain fields with economic competition from abroad. He also regarded as important the development of regional economic cooperation in the future. "Our next slogan in the peace process will be to set up free regional trade in the Middle East based on the NAFTA model," he said.

To conclude, Sha'th called on the Palestinians and Israel to move from the stage of excelling at war to the stage of excelling in building peace and achieving prosperity and well-being for both peoples. He expressed the hope that the upcoming round of negotiations on the terms for holding elections in the territories will conclude successfully so that the elections can be held soon.

Gur: 'No Red Lines' in Syrian Negotiations

TA1210132594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The government has no "red lines" in negotiations with the Syrians regarding the Golan Heights, Deputy Defense Minsiter Mordechai Gur declared last night.

Gur said he was opposed in principle to setting any red lines, especially since those who had done so in the past had been unable to adhere to them.

He made the comments during a meeting with scores of Golan residents at Moshav Givat Yoav on the heights.

Gur stressed, however, that the talks with the Syrians were still deadlocked, and reports of various deals were pure speculation, because nothing had been agreed.

He maintained that the government could break its promises if it came to the conclusion that circumstances had changed. The late prime ministers David Ben-Gurion and Menachem Begin had done the same, he said.

Gur noted however, that the government would have a serious problem if an agreement reached in principle was put to the public in the form of a referendum and was approved by only a small majority.

He declined to say what he meant by a small majority.

Gur's comments brought sharp reactions from participants at the meeting who reiterated their intention to continue and intensify their battle to keep the Golan under Israeli rule. [passage omitted]

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions Over Syria

TA1010173894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago the Knesset plenum defeated the motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the Likud and Tzomet over the government's position in talks with Syria with a majority of 56 versus 45 votes. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset members of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] absented themselves from the hall, Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb from YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] abstained, and Yosef 'Azran of SHAS and Ester Salmovitz of YI'UD voted with the opposition.

Paper Profiles New Chief of Staff

TA0710181994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Oct 94 p B1

[Article by Alon Pinkas: "New Chief of Staff Faces Greatest Challenges Ever"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On January 1, 1995, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq will begin a four-year tour of duty as the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] 15th chief of general staff.

While the requirements of the job are all to familiar to Shahaq (now deputy chief of general staff), he is undertaking what may be the most challenging, problematic, politically explosive, and unrewarding tenure of any chief of general staff before him.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night notified Shahaq, 50, that he would succeed Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq. The appointment was expected; Shahaq was already considered by Rabin when he was appointed Baraq's deputy in 1990. Shahaq's promotion was all but assured when the prime minister entrusted him with the sensitive and high-exposure role as chief negotiator with the Palestinians in the talks leading to the Cairo agreement.

Shahaq's involvement in diplomacy was criticized as excessive involvement by the IDF in political negotiations and by a senior officer in the peace process. Others questioned whether Shahaq, preoccupied with the talks, was performing his tasks as deputy chief of general staff who had been placed in charge of the army's long-term force-structure and implementation of the multi-year plan. But Shahaq managed to emerge unscathed and awaited Rabin's official decision.

Rabin, who is required by Basic Law: The Army (1976) to bring his recommendation to the cabinet for approval (which he is expected to do on Sunday), thus positioned the key player in a sweeping rotation in the high echelons of the army. He did not name Shahaq's deputy from among three major-generals: OC [Officer Commanding] Southern Command Matan Vilna'i (Shahaq's preferred candidate); Intelligence Branch chief Uri Sagi (who will probably be appointed head of a security-related agency under the Prime Minister's Office); and OC Northern Command Yitzhaq Mordekhay, who will either retire or be promised a rotation with Vilna'i in 1996. Successors for those three were not named either, but a decision is expected next week.

Shahaq's tenure will probably be the most complicated ever. Other chiefs may have served in problematic times and confronted historic challenges, but Shahaq will be responsible for restructuring the IDF and preparing it for the uncertainties of the future battlefield, for the specter of total war including missile attacks, and for dealing with nonconventional weapons. Chiefs who commanded the IDF during war—Ya'aqov Dori and Yiga'el Yadin in 1948, Moshe Dayan in 1956, Rabin in 1967, Hayim Bar-Lev during the War of Attrition in 1969-70, and David El'azar in 1973—oversaw major and far-reaching developments of both systems and doctrine. But none of them had to confront the profound and revolutionary military realities that, in the event of war, Shahaq will face.

Shahaq will have to manage when the national security doctrine is updated and redefined, as it must be, along the parameters shaped by the Gulf war and territorial concessions. He will have to decide on a wide array of acquisition issues including the Arrow anti-ballistic missile. He will have to prepare the army for redeployment in Judaea and Samaria and possibly on the Golan. He will have to prepare the home front for scud missiles that really hit, really hurt, and do real damage. Most importantly, and politically explosive and divisive, Shahaq will be in charge of an army that may be ordered to uproot Jewish settlement.

Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq was born in 1944 in Tel Aviv. In 1959, he enrolled in the military prep school in Haifa (in a class that included Vilna'i and Maj.-Gen. Giyora Rom, both marked for new postings in this appointment round), and in 1962 was drafted and joined the paratroopers brigade. He was a company commander (during the 1967 war), a reconnaissance unit commander (participating in numerous, some still secret, commando raids in Beirut and elsewhere), a battalion commander, a deputy commander of the 35th Paratroopers (during the 1973 Yom Kippur War), and a brigade commander.

Shahaq then commanded an armored division, and in 1983 was appointed OC Central Command. In 1986, he was appointed head of intelligence, a position he once admitted was the most interesting in his career.

Decorated twice for courage (in the 1968 al-Karamah operation and the 1973 "Aviv Ne'urim" raid on Beirut), Shahaq was appointed deputy chief of general staff in 1991, immediately following the Gulf war. In May that year, he commanded "Operation Solomon," the airlift of Ethiopian Jewry.

He is married, for the second time, to DAVAR's Tali Lipkin- Shahaq, whom he met while she was a military correspondent during the Lebanon war. He has five children.

Shahaq is considered a serious, talented, eloquent, clear-minded, and professional officer by his peers and former commanders. Although not usually described as bright, original, or intellectually oriented like Baraq, he has a BA in history from Tel Aviv University and his qualities are defined by his illustrious career and almost unparalleled knowledge of the IDF. Friends and rivals alike describe him as a cynic with a sharp, sarcastic sense of humor, an arrogant man with a condescending attitude. Still, they say, he is never as impatient as Baraq reportedly is with those whose opinions he does not appreciate.

"Baraq may have a more original and polished military mind, but Shahaq is clearly the more general-like," says one general staff officer.

But just as Baraq's camelot-like entrance to the second floor of IDF headquarters in April 1991 was forgotten as soon as his tenure began, so will Shahaq's, once the agenda overtakes the customary flattering personality profiles in the media.

If Baraq was to begin a process of restructuring the army and integrating the lessons of the Gulf war during a period often depicted by annual Intelligence assessments as "a window of opportunity providing Israel with an unprecedentedly favorable strategic environment in the region," Shahaq will have to translate that reality into a tangible military posture, made more complicated (some will say more promising) by an expanding peace process.

If Baraq expressed his reservations concerning the Oslo agreement and in inner circles expounded his belief that the key is an agreement with Syria, Shahaq, at least ostensibly, reflects a mirror image. A negotiator with Nabil Sha'th and a framer of the Cairo accord, he may advise his superiors that Syria may have changed its strategic priorities and made peace a desired option, but the implementation of the accord takes precedence. Despite the differences of emphasis, Baraq and Shahaq share a basic support for the peace process. While Baraq is more of a "security hawk," Shahaq is thought more dovish.

The peace process will undoubtedly dominate Shahaq's agenda. The substance and future of the peace process are inextricably linked to Israel's perceptions of its strategic environs, and the Arabs' perceptions of Israel's intentions. This is where a coherent national security concept and military could enter the equation, and this is essentially where Shahaq's tenure begins, and how it will be measured and evaluated.

In the form of a nonprioritized shopping list, Shahaq will have the following tasks, each of which seems to loom larger and more challenging than the next:

—Defining and updating national security doctrine, and updating battle doctrine;

—Laying the military and intelligence foundations for, and examining the doctrinal implications of, a possible peace agreement with Syria involving territorial compromise, and possibly relinquishment of the entire Golan Heights;

—Preparing for the future battlefield, characterized by the addition of long-range missiles to Arab arsenals and the steady erosion of Israel's qualitative edge in weapons systems.

—Setting goals for the IDF's force structure, including acquisition of weapons systems, local development of systems (Arrow, Central Project, Merqava Mark IV), local purchases, the size of the standing and reserve armies;

—Preparing the home front for a future war involving accurate missiles hitting city centers and infrastructure;

—Managing the redeployment in Judaea and Samaria and further defining relations with the Palestinian security forces;

—Formulating a strategy to deal with the prospects of evacuating Jewish settlements in the territories without rendering the army the culprit in the eyes of those opposed to the policy;

—Defining the IDF's material needs in an era of ever-diminishing financial resources.

The selection of Shahaq was a hard choice for Rabin. Vilna'i and Sagi are both worthy, competent, talented, and capable candidates, and Shahaq's appointment obviously leaves them disappointed. But he was the best man available. There is no doubt about his ability and suitability; the cardinal question is whether he will be able to successfully cope with the immense challenges ahead, and avoid becoming a political chief of general staff—because of the tasks imposed upon him, rather than his inclination.

Review of Political Affairs Articles in Sep NEQUDA

TA0710133194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a review of the September issue of NEQUDA—the Hebrew-language monthly magazine published by the Society of the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley—which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. This review includes summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

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IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

The column, appearing on pages 18 and 19, comprises four essays, each approximately 400-words long. The first, entitled: "There Is Still Faith in the Land," claims that "the settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza had a net growth of 10 percent this summer." This fact is seen as a "major boost for settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and for the Zionist and national camp" and as "possibly the first buds of the much-desired turnabout."

The second essay, entitled: "Cause To Rejoice," urges the readers to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the "Sebastya battle," which marked "the beginning of the tenacious and determined struggle for the renewal of Jewish settlement in Samaria," with events that "will send certain messages to the Israeli political establishment and Israeli society, to Arab neighbors, and to others."

The third essay, entitled: "Inflame the Spirit," analyzes the national camp's inability to act efficiently and in unison and states: "Only an opposition that is united, self-confident, certain of its way, and willing to fight relentlessly for Eretz Yisra'el and for the Jewish people's future in this country can help avoid the downfall."

The fourth essay, entitled: "Vindictiveness in the Makhpela Cave," discusses the establishment's failure to reopen the cave for prayer and states that whatever is done, "we must never resort to measures that can turn the public against continued settlement in Hebron."

CIVIL UPRISING NOW

This 2,000-word article by Elyaqim Ha'etzni on pages 26, 27, 28, and 29 states that "a nation whose government has committed national treason by forming an alliance with a terrorist enemy in order to defraud it of the heart of its land" "should be prepared to fight," and that fight must take place at once. "If we do not rise up against this government at once, the new year may, God forbid, mark the beginning of the undoing of the Golan; the release of all the murderers of Jews; the influx of Arab refugees into Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza from the east (and concurrently, a mass exodus of Jews westward); the terrorist army's deployment in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza cities and villages; the beginning of the downfall of Jerusalem; the spread of Palestinian rule throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," and "attempts to uproot places such as Neve Ativ, Tel Hevron (Tall al-Rumaythah), Netzarim, and Kfar Darom."

Ha'etzni asks: "What are the legal and moral borders of what a democratic majority can demand and forcibly impose on a minority? What is the utmost resistance a minority may mount against a democratic majority that is resolved to bring catastrophe upon its houses, cities, and villages?" He replies: "Uprooting settlements and turning their residents into refugees in circumstances other than the rage or result of war" is both "a national crime and a crime as defined by penal law."

Ha'etzni proceeds to outline his concept of the settlers' resistance: "An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier—even if he is Jewish—who drags us, our women, our children, and our grandchildren from our homes in order to demolish them and turn us into refugees will be carrying out a pogrom as far as we are concerned." He explains that the settlers will urge the soldiers to desist but, failing that, "we will use reasonable force against them." The degree of the settlers' resistance will match the troops' conduct: "If they come to drag us away with their bare hands, we will defend ourselves with our hands. If they use another kind of force, we will resort to active defense, but we will neither carry weapons nor shed blood. We do not imagine that the soldiers will receive orders to shoot."

Ha'etzni then proceeds to detail the necessary preparations, which include "an extensive public relations campaign" and the establishment of registration stations in which a cadre of volunteers can register throughout the country.

Ha'etzni's detailed proposal for settler conduct and steps are published in an 800-word box, entitled, "This Is How We Will Stop Them (Partial List)," on pages 28 and 29. The proposal consists of 13 parts, each bearing a different title. It urges Jews not to go near the PLO flag; soldiers and civilians must not "collaborate" with those who are "building up the strength of an entity plotting to inherit you"; judges and policemen should refuse to release the murderers of Jews; soldiers should refuse orders to cooperate with the Palestinian police; "Israeli patriots" should refuse to help flood the country with returning refugees; anyone stumbling upon archaeological relics from Judaea, Samaria, Gaza or Jerusalem should turn them over to the Israeli authorities; "relentless disturbances should be staged near the centers of the terrorist rule in Jerusalem"; terror victims should pursue their attackers, since Israel is releasing imprisoned terrorists; the public should record all "peace crimes" in "affidavits, photographs, logs" for the "day when the alliance with the terrorists comes to an end and the 'peace criminals' are put on trial"; the public should not pay fees for the use of Israel Television, which "has become 'Arafat's public relations bureau"; Arabs who assisted Jews must not be left to the mercy of their persecutors; names of Jewish police and Army officers who cruelly disperse demonstrators should be made public; and the Israeli flag, which has been banned in Jericho, should be flown on cars entering that area.

A NEW GUSH EMUNIM

This 2,000-word article on pages 30 and 31 was written by Hagay Ben-Artzi, identified as "a Bet El resident and a Jewish philosophy lecturer at the David Yelin Education College and at Bet Morasha in Jerusalem." It analyzes the failure of secular society to meet difficult political situations and challenges head-on and states that this situation is the result of the inferior education in the secular sector. Ben-Artzi believes the solution lies in the "rehabilitation of Jewish education" by "the excellent, idealistic, qualified personnel affiliated with the national-religious sector, most notably those residing in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." He believes that candidates who suit this vocation should be given the appropriate tools: "Their cultural horizons must be expanded; they should study the language and terminology of the secular world; they should learn how to emphasize vital tenets which the general public is capable of absorbing; but they must not create feelings of unease, coercion, and so forth."

Ben-Artzi believes that "the moment a national Jewish government is reestablished," Gush Emunim will be able to implement this approach, thereby changing the spiritual makeup of Israeli society.

TAIWAN (AND VIETNAM) ON THE GOLAN

This 2,500-word article on pages 36, 37, 38, and 39 by Yo'ash Tzidon, "a reserves colonel, a former Knesset member, and a member of the first peace delegation to Madrid in 1991," berates the government for seeking U.S. deployment on the Golan and analyzes the negative consequences of such a development.

The first chapter, entitled "Preface," concedes that "U.S. troop deployment on the Golan may bring about a breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations" but asserts that intrinsically, a breakthrough is a temporary achievement, and in this case, it will "mortally injure the long-term interests of the Israeli-Syrian peace, as well as the interests of Israel, the United States, U.S.- Israeli relations, and U.S. relations with the American Jewish community." He urges "Israel, the U.S. Administration, Congress, and the American public to reconsider the long-term consequences of U.S. troop deployment on the Golan," which is liable "to create an unstable border that will replace the stable one of today. I fear that the instability of the new line will cause the loss of Israeli, American, and Syrian lives."

The second chapter, entitled "Discourse," states: "In practice, the replacement of Israeli forces by U.S. troops on the Golan means no more and no less than U.S. responsibility for a critical sector of Israel's defense in the north.

"Having forced Israel to abandon positions that would have required no U.S. (or other) presence had Israel remained there, the United States will be forced to assume this additional commitment, this burden, for an infinite period.

"If the U.S. troops carry out their job to Israel's full satisfaction or if the Arabs deem them to be partial to Israel, the United States' relations with Syria and, consequently, with the other Arab states, will be harmed.

"Yet should the U.S. troops act in challenging times as President Johnson's administration did in May 1967 (when he failed to honor his commitments to Israel regarding his responsibility for the demilitarization of the Sinai and for safeguarding free passage for Israeli ships in the Red Sea in case of need), the face-to-face war that will break out between the two powerful adversaries, with Israel fighting from an inferior position, is liable to render the United States responsible for forsaking the Third Temple. Are the burden and the long-term responsibility the United States will be taking on worth the momentary, grandiose sense of achievement over signing an Israeli- Syrian peace agreement? There are some who doubt it. The conclusion is that if the effort gets to be too much for the United States, it will find a pretext to withdraw 'in time,' forsaking Israel as it did on the eve of the Six-Day War."

Tzidon goes on to explain that "geography is an integral part" of the Israeli deterrent capability. Referring to a "highly classified" map, which was part of a Pentagon survey conducted between 1968 and 1974, he states in a chapter entitled "The Pentagon Map": "According to this map, which was prepared by U.S. military personnel, Israel has already relinquished much more territory than is good for its security."

He further asserts that the decision to deploy U.S. troops on the Golan, which "may be perceived by fundamentalist Arab circles as a violation of sacred Arab land, is liable to generate Arab/Muslim terrorism against U.S. 'targets' worldwide."

Tzidon asserts that the situation is also liable to cause a deterioration in relations between Israel and those Arab states that did not violate the peace pact with us. He claims: "Circumstances may arise in which the United States will make the continued troop deployment contingent on Israel's surrender to its political dictums—for example, the inclusion of Jerusalem—and perhaps, who knows, of Galilee areas as well—in the autonomy. As is well known, the United States disagrees with Israel regarding certain Israeli weapons developments. Yet, if threatened by the Democles sword in the Golan, who knows what kind of concessions Israel will make?" He concludes: "The deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan is a lever for excessive U.S. intervention in Israel's affairs, which means a loss of another layer of national independence."

OPERATING IN A BITTERLY DIFFICULT REALITY

This 3,200-word article by Yo'el Bin-Nun on pages 40, 41, 42, and 43 states that "the contemporary national movement has lost its ability to lead the State of Israel. This may have happened because of the Lebanon war, the economic crisis, immigrant absorption fiascoes, and particularly because of the collapse of national unity and the lethal breach within the 'national camp.' The national movement's ability to return to power is very doubtful," while " 'the peace process' is gathering momentum, and as we all already know, it cannot be stopped, suspended, or torpedoed." The author concludes therefore: "If brutal separatism, which goes against the grain of the movement and against the grain of Jewish unity, continues to divide the national-religious movement, the movement is liable to lose its entire public standing and its leadership potential. Only a genuine attempt to forge a dialogue between the left, the center, and the right wing, between the secular, religious, and ultra-Orthodox sectors, will open new vistas."

SMITH INSTITUTE POLL

Rafi Atiya's 400-word report on the poll, which consists of five questions, is printed on pages 48 and 49. The report is followed by a 500-word "poll analysis."

"Some 600 adult Jews were interviewed between 25 and 27 July 1994 throughout the country, with the exception of moshavim, kibbutzim, and Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements.

"First question: If, in the framework of the permanent arrangement, Arafat demands that Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers be evacuated and their houses be demolished or handed over to Arabs, do you think the government should:

"Agree to the demand—22 percent; reject the demand—48.6 percent; no opinion—28.4 percent. [total 99 percent as published]

"Second question: Should the government decide to evacuate Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers, do you think it would be all right for soldiers and policemen to refuse to carry out such an order?

"Yes, it is all right—15.1 percent; no, it is not all right—51.8 percent; no opinion—27.6 percent." [total 94.5 percent as published]

"Fourth question: What, in your opinion, are settlers permitted to do if a decision to evacuate them is made? (All answers in percentages)

	"Yes	No	No Opinion
"Oppose violently	14.1	58.8	27.1
"Oppose actively but avoid bloodshed	51.7	21.2	27.1
"Oppose passively	45.1	25.4	29.5
"Avoid any kind of opposition	16.7	52.3	31.0"

"Fifth question: Should Israelis assist the settlers' opposition, if asked to do so?

"Yes—41.8 percent; no—23.5 percent; no opinion—34.7 percent"

A BLESSING OUT OF A CURSE

In a 1,500-word article on pages 54 and 55, Rabbi Menahem Fruman urges his fellow members in the national-religious movement to take action to change the public image of intransigence which has stuck to them and to "seek a way to lead an honorable life in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza under the new conditions prevailing there." He calls on his movement "to break free of the old ideological boundaries in a bid to try to build realistic life patterns."

THE AMERICAN CASH MACHINE

This 500-word article on pages 57 and 58 is one of five articles on different political issues published in 'Ami'el Unger's PRACTICAL POINT column on pages 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60. Unger reviews the various Middle East causes that have received U.S. aid and notes that al-Asad "wants everything Egypt received: both territory and generous U.S. aid in the form of funds and weapons.

"The American financial aid is usually followed by the sale of advanced U.S. weapons (despite their generosity, the Americans like to offset some of the aid by getting orders and creating employment for the U.S. economy)." He concludes, therefore, that "the Arab armies' accelerated procurement of advanced U.S. weaponry will erode Israel's military superiority (the technical superiority, because we doubt that moral superiority still exists), and we will appeal to the U.S. Administration, and in fact to the American taxpayer, for more equipment. The same will happen again and again."

Unger concludes that the assumption that Middle East stability is a national U.S. priority is fallacious, because "we are now closer to the defeated and broken United States of the late 1920's" than to the "rich and self-confident United States of the Marshall Plan."

King Meets With Israeli Prime Minister Rabin

JN1310051994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn met yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They discussed the latest developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace process. The meeting was held in accordance with the Washington Declaration, which stipulates constant meetings between Jordanian and Israeli officials.

'Tangible Progress' Reported

NC1310135094 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Report by Saad Hattar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 13 (AFP)—Jordan and Israel have moved closer to signing a peace treaty after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's surprise trip to Amman, a senior official here said Thursday [13 October].

He told AFP that the unscheduled summit on Wednesday between King Husayn and Rabin, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, was made possible because of "tangible progress" in their countries' peace negotiations.

The official declined to speculate on the timing of a treaty, which would make Jordan only the second Arab state after Egypt to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

"There is no specific deadline for a peace treaty," he said, asking not to be named.

"Once all sovereignty-related issues on occupied land and water quotas are settled, it would be clear the door will open for signing the prospective peace treaty."

In Israel, Rabin said a signing was on the cards before the end of 1994.

"We have not yet wrapped everything up with Jordan, but a settlement of the problems which separate us is at an advanced stage," he said.

"I hope that by the end of the year a peace agreement will be signed and I hope that it could be even sooner than that."

Rabin told state radio earlier that Israel and Jordan had taken "a big step towards peace" following his meeting with King Husayn.

Israeli military radio, following Rabin's first public visit to Amman, said a treaty could be signed as early as mid-November when the prime minister is slated to visit Washington.

Rabin said he and Peres had discussed the issues of borders and water-sharing in two-and-a-half hours of talks with the Jordanians.

Amman agreed that no Israeli villages would be surrendered as part of any deal to return land seized by Israel after the 1967 war, the premier said.

"Those villages are on sovereign Israeli territory and the differences are only over the fields and wells around these villages," Rabin added.

The Jordanian official, meanwhile, said that striking a peace pact depended on "adding the final touches to the two basic issues of land and waters."

Jordan claims 380 square kilometres (150 sq. miles) of land in Wadi al-'Arabah, occupied by Israel to prevent infiltrations by Palestinian guerrillas. Amman also wants back five square kilometres (two sq. miles) of land further north.

Israeli and Jordanian delegations on Thursday held a fourth day of negotiations in the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein, in an interview with the English-language JORDAN TIMES, said both sides were working on the details of a "peace package ... something that both sides must be satisfied with."

Fayiz Tarawinah, his Jordanian counterpart, said the King Husayn- Rabin summit served as "great support for the negotiators on both sides in order to bridge the gap."

Rabin and King Husayn signed a peace declaration in Washington on July 25, formally ending a 46-year state of war between their countries.

The prime minister along with Peres also met the king in Jordan's Red Sea resort of 'Aqaba on September 29 and drew up the broad outlines of a peace treaty.

Al-Majali on Talks With Israel, Mideast Market

NC1310105494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stated that there are no differences between Egypt and Jordan over political, economic, or trade issues. He said he hoped that bilateral relations would be consolidated further to serve as a model to be followed in the Arab world.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, al-Majali noted that joint ventures between the two countries are being implemented successfully, adding that there is room for many joint projects to be implemented. The Jordanian prime minister said he appreciated Egypt's role in restoring normalcy to inter-Arab relations. He stressed the need to clear the remaining outstanding problems in the Arab world, particularly in view of the conditions in the region.

Asked how Israel's entry into the new Middle East market project can be acceptable to Jordan, al-Majali said that some thinking must be done before establishing a joint market between a country the per capita income of which is $15,000 per year, meaning Israel, and another country the per capita income of which does not exceed $1,000 per year. He added that this is difficult from the economic viewpoint. Al-Majali stressed that Israel is boycotting the Arabs more than the Arabs are boycotting Israel and called on Israel to change its positions before putting on the pressure to establish a Middle East market. He emphasized that the Arabs must reach an understanding among themselves on this issue in case they find themselves asked to accept something that may not serve their interests.

In this regard, al-Majali made a distinction between the establishment of joint projects between Israel and the Arab states and the establishment of a Middle East market. He pointed out that joint projects may be set up between any two states, which is something different from a common market. He added: I believe that there are some projects the nature of which requires that they be implemented on a common or regional basis.

Concerning the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, al-Majali said that the past weeks made us feel that the other party, Israel, does not stick to a particular position and that the peace drive has begun and is irreversible—whether now or in the future. He added: The train has moved and it is in the nature of things that it will slow down or speed up according to circumstances.

The Jordanian prime minister noted that his country has five basic issues to negotiate with Israel: Land, water, refugees and displaced persons, economy, and security. He stressed the need to solve the problems relating to these basic issues so that relations with the other party can be normal and clear.

Asked about Jordan's coordination with the Palestinians, al-Majali said that this coordination has not been up to the standard desired by both parties. He said he regretted that this was the case, despite the deep-rooted and basic relations between Jordan and Palestine. He pointed out that Jordan and the Palestinians need to enter negotiations to define the nature of their relationship and the issues that concern both of them in accordance with a specific and clear-cut agenda. Al-Majali expressed reservations over the idea of establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation but he did not rule out the possibility of discussing it in future.

Al-Majali emphasized that the relationship between Jordan and Syria is one of fate. He added that Jordan insists that progress be made on the Syrian track but because the nature of the Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks is different, each country should show flexibility on its own track of the negotiations and over its assessment of the other tracks.

Regarding Jordanian-Gulf ties, al-Majali said that there are signs of a real breakthrough in these relations and a possibility that diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level between the two sides could be restored very soon. He praised the role played by Egypt in this regard.

Aide Rejects Israeli Land-Exchange Proposal

MM0710154594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel, has announced that Jordan will not agree to any of the Israeli proposals aimed at setting up joint enterprises in the disputed areas before its claims to its occupied territories are recognized fully by Israel, its border with Israel is demarcated, and its water rights are secured. He said that "as far as we are concerned, that is a priority, and we cannot concede or defer it." A report by the Israeli Central Bank spoke of possible trade exchange with Jordan totaling $150 million in the next five years.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Mu'ashshir denied Israeli reports on exchanging the occupied Jordanian territories containing Israeli farms for other territories. He said: "We continue to insist on the return of all the occupied Jordanian territories, which are not negotiable or subject to barter."

Al-Mu'ashshir added that the Israelis proposed starting to set up joint enterprises on the southern and northern borders as a step toward a settlement, but Jordan rejects these proposals at present.

Al-Mu'ashshir pointed out that the negotiations, which begin next Monday and will last for a week, will focus on examining the studies prepared by experts regarding the demarcation of the international borders between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Financial Agreement With Palestinians

JN1210232894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 94

["Text" of Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached at end of meetings of joint committee in Amman on 12 October—read by Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two agreements have been reached, the first addressing money and banks, the second trade. In the first area, it was agreed that the Jordanian dinar will continue to be the currency of circulation and the legal tender for all official and private transactions. The two sides undertook not to unilaterally take any sudden monetary measures that may run counter to the monetary stability of either side. They agreed that the licenses issued by Jordan's Central Bank to open branches or offices for Jordanian banks in the West Bank will remain in force. The sides also agreed to coordinate the opening of new branches with the proviso that the branches and offices be subject to any legislation or general banking rules decided by the Palestinian authority. The sides are to establish a joint supervisory body from the Jordanian Central Bank and the Palestinian Monetary Authority to oversee these branches and offices pending the completion of the oversight frameworks for the Palestinian Monetary Authority.

The second agreement addresses trade. The agreement principally confirms a commitment to the principle of free trade and two-way traffic for national goods and services. These goods and services will be exempt from customs duties and other fees and taxes with the exception of those levied on local products.

It was agreed to set up a joint committee to handle trade and customs tariffs to put the agreement into practice and to set up an experts committee to study executive procedures. It was also agreed to facilitate transport and transit through the sides' territories and their land, sea, and air and to fully or partly meet the Palestinian side's requirements for oil derivatives, cement, and iron in accordance with special protocols. The sides also agreed to begin a study of an electricity link between them. Regarding the Palestinian agricultural goods, the sides agreed that their respective authorities work out a program of exporting them to Jordan and facilitate their transit through Jordanian territory.

These agreements are to be submitted to the Joranian Government and the Palestinian Authority for ratification.

Another topic that we looked at in depth was the displaced people where we agreed that experts from both sides will meet next week to study an integrated working paper to be prepared by the Palestinian side about the displaced people's issue with the object of arriving at a unified Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian stand. The Palestinian side will set up a four-way Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli meeting to consider the issue.

The fourth item was transport where agreement was complete about securing experts and training that the Palestinian Authority will need in the areas of air transport and civil aviation. The Jordanian side promised to consider the possibility of registering Palestinian airplanes and crews. It was agreed that Queen Alia Airport will serve as the main distribution point for passengers and air freight. We also discussed freight across the bridges and vehicle and driver licenses. A draft agreement on these topics will be prepared so they can be discussed and approved at the next session. Thank you.

Editorials View Present Iraqi-Kuwaiti Situation

AL-DUSTUR Urges Lifting Embargo

JN0810193394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Issue Can Only Be Settled By Lifting Sanctions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is regrettable that the issue of Iraq has escalated to this point. It is also painful to see the embargo on the Iraqi people continue for such a long time—not to mention all the suffering caused by this embargo, the continuation of which is no longer acceptable.

Talk about Iraqi military movements and Baghdad's threat to stop cooperating with the United Nations and its inspectors constitute a natural reaction to the United States' inclinations and policy aimed at continuing the sanctions and the campaign of starvation and killing imposed on the Iraqi people to achieve political objectives and goals that deviate from the principles of justice, right, and peace.

Iraq—which fully cooperated with the United Nations, implemented all UN resolutions, destroyed its own weapons, accepted the system of arms monitoring, and called for opening a new chapter with Arab and neighboring countries based on the Arab League and UN Charters—did not receive any positive response to all this other than the continuation of the sanctions, the embargo, and the campaigns of starvation and humiliation.

If the objective is to destroy Iraq's military capabilities, then this has been achieved through the UN teams which combed Iraqi territories for three years.

If the objective is to implement the United Nations and UN Security Council resolutions, then all this has been achieved according to the testimony of first parties in the UN Security Council and the United Nations themselves.

If the objective is to consecrate the bases of international legitimacy, then Iraq has fully responded to that.

However, if the objective is to isolate the Iraqi leadership, then this is not a matter to be determined by Washington and its allies inside and outside the region. This is an Iraqi matter to be decided by the people of Iraq, through their willpower and the freedom of their sons.

The United States, whose stand conflicts with that of its partners at the UN Security Council, is deliberately adopting a policy of shuffling papers; obstructing any chance or hope of ending the sanctions tragedy; fabricating this crisis with the United Nations to push Iraq and its people to the brink of despair; and creating pretexts for the continuation of the embargo imposed on Iraq. This does not serve any inclination toward or objective of building a Middle Eastern regional order based on peace, security, and cooperation. Moreover, this policy would lead to extremism, reopen wounds, and open new doors for a conflict in the region.

President Clinton's false claims which came during his reviewal of recent developments did not convince anyone. He failed to point out a single resolution with which Iraq did not comply, accusing it of trying to scare the United Nations. We do not know how such pretexts could be marketed amid the suffering and scarce resources, even including food and medicine.

Continuing the threat to use force and the big stick, as well as continuing to tighten the grip around the Iraqi people and escalating matters to the point of a confrontation will not end the state of tension and instability in the Gulf region and the Middle East. This can be done by resorting to the logic of justice; lifting the embargo; ending the unjust sanctions; and opening a new chapter of understanding and peaceful dialogue based on justice and international legitimacy. That is unless the objective is to infinitely keep the whirlpool of instability and tension to achieve objectives that are no longer a secret to anyone.

AL-RA'Y: Sanctions 'Root' of Crisis

JN0910104394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Oct 94 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "History Will Not Repeat Itself"]

[FBIS Translated Text] History will not repeat itself in the current political-military crisis at the mouth of the Arabian Gulf. Despite the inaccurate and unconfirmed reports on

Iraqi troop concentrations on the border with Kuwait, Iraq has said in plain Arabic that is not seeking any military confrontation which would only increase the suffering of its people, except in self-defense. For its part, the United States considers the establishment of peace in the Middle East one of its foreign policy priorities and regards the rearrangement of its economic situation as one of the top priorities of its domestic policy. Therefore, it is not in a position to facilitate repeating its experience of 1991. For their part, the Gulf states have not yet recovered from the economic effects of the 1990 Gulf crisis. They will not find it easy to finance an international military buildup similar to the one they financed in the past.

Therefore, it is in the interest of all parties to the new crisis to avoid a military confrontation and make sure that recent history would not repeat itself.

Four years into the blockade, looking into the roots of the new crisis will not take more than a brief visit to the Iraqi capital or a briefer visit to the United Nations to read the reports of its specialized agencies on the tragic situation of our Arab people in this sisterly country.

The solution to this crisis lies in addressing its root, which is as clear as is the sun. Such a solution lies in lifting the blockade immediately since Iraq has honored all its obligations under UN Security Council cease-fire resolutions of 1991.

Defusing the new crisis does not need more than an honest stand in Moscow, Beijing, and Paris, and enough courage in all Arab capitals to see the truth and put an end to starving the Arab people of Iraq to death.

As for Washington, it bears full political responsibility and a heavy moral and human burden as a result of its arrogant persistence in refusing to acknowledge the credibility of Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions and cooperation with the United Nations. Meanwhile, Iraq threatens to stop cooperation with the United Nations because of the arrogance of Washington in particular which refuses to acknowledge this cooperation.

Jordan has always advocated peaceful and Arab solutions to Arab conflicts. Doing its utmost to serve regional peace and security, Jordan cannot view any new military confrontation except as a threat to its national and Arab aspirations for security and stability.

AL-ASWAQ Urges Lifting Sanctions

JN0910105894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 9 Oct p 17

[Editorial: "Unjust Blockade; Legitimate Security"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nobody every imagined that not only Iraq and Kuwait but the entire [Arab] nation would be paying the immense and grave cost of the 1990 crisis which is still going on today.

It is both rational and necessary that the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people should be lifted because it has exceeded all imaginable proportions and because the Iraqi people are now in dire need of continuing to live as human beings. At the same time, it is axiomatic that the Kuwaiti people should live in security and stability.

The major powers, irrespective of their sympathies, will take first and foremost their short-term and strategic interests into consideration no matter what the true interests of this or that Arab people might be. The contribution by this or that side toward giving these powers the pretexts to interfere in Iraq's or in Kuwait's internal affairs will neither promote the national interests of any party nor the pan-Arab interest which were greatly harmed by the 1990 crisis. [passage omitted]

At this time, those who believe in the rights of peoples of the Arab nation to end their suffering hope that the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people will be lifted and that the Kuwaiti people will live in legitimate security and stability.

JORDAN TIMES on Toppling Saddam

JN1010084494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Gulf: New Twist of Destiny]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Remember the summer of 1990? Iraq then had serious grievances with Kuwait. Negotiations failed to remove the tension and the world woke up to the news of Iraqi troops invading the emirate on the first Thursday of August. Today, four years later, the fact remains that the Iraqis are still living with the catastrophic consequences of the Gulf crisis and war that followed the invasion. This is why Iraq should not set the stage for another disaster in the area, neither now nor later. Nothing could justify a new invasion of Kuwait and there is no reason to believe that a military action would succeed in redressing the unacceptable circumstances that prevail in the Gulf. Invading Kuwait is a mistake that Iraq should not make. Like in the second Gulf War, the Iraqis, the rest of the Arabs and the stability of the region would be the victim of such a move. Iraq would be defying reason, jeopardising its own interests and serving those of the enemies of the Arab World by inviting a new war to the area, a war that Iraq simply cannot win.

That said, the new developments in the region assert that the international community has failed to remove the seeds of conflict from the region. The U.S. troops that led the war against Iraq went back after destroying Iraq's military capabilities. But the West is yet to prove that their real aim behind that war was to implement international legitimacy and securing the human rights of the people of the area.

It is clear by now that what the U.S. and its allies want is the toppling of the Iraqi regime. Their determination to achieve this goal seems to have blinded them to the price the Iraqi people are paying as a result of the sanctions. Images of dying Iraqi children and confirmed reports of extreme suffering by that people have failed to prompt any efforts by the United Nations to help alleviate the suffering of Iraqis who are victims of the sanctions as much as they were victims of the Gulf War.

The situation in Iraq today is a prime example of a short-sighted American-British policy that does not see beyond its immediate interests. That policy has it that the sanctions would push life in Iraq to an intolerable level which would force Iraqis to rise against the regime and topple it. This has not happened four years after the strict sanctions. It could happen in the future but the price paid by then would have been simply too high. The Iraqis' resentment against the international community then would make sure that the new regime would have a lot of scores to settle with it. That would be a recipe for anything but stability in the region.

Iraq has shown enough cooperation with the United Nations since the end of he war. However, the world community has not reciprocated the gestures. That is why the tension is rising anew in the Gulf. The way to ease it is clear: Iraqis should not have to suffer any more, the U.N. has to ease the sanctions and Iraq has to continue to cooperate with the Security Council. it is time therefore for the world to set up realistic policy objectives vis-a- vis Iraq. The nature of the Iraqi regime is a choice for the Iraqi people to make and live with. But it is the duty of the international community to help end the suffering of the men, women and children of Iraq.

The U.S. administration's obsession with removing Saddam Husayn should not render the world oblivious to international norms and the basics of human rights.

Iraq should not invade Kuwait again, and the world should work towards addressing the cause for the new tension. The immediate neighbours of Iraq should put the past behind, look to the future and launch a serious initiative that would end the causes of the conflict in the Gulf once and for all. it will be them, not the U.S., which will eventually have to live with the consequences of another war, or at least perennial tension.

The lessons of the first war are still fresh in our minds, but they are yet to be digested by others. It is a matter of destiny for the whole Gulf region.

AL-RA'Y Urges 'Peaceful Solution'

JN1310101194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Oct 94 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "In Order To Ward Off the Specter of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The atmosphere of anxiety and tension prevailing in the Arabian Gulf region is not confined to the boundary of that region, but extends to other neighboring Arab countries, which indeed have fears about new developments and the serious repercussions that may herald further pain and suffering.

Several days into the unexpected and continuing escalation, feelings of shock and astonishment still prevail among all those concerned about the safety of both Kuwait and Iraq, for this escalation is unwarranted. What was needed was to ease the situation and cooperate with the United Nations to remove the effects of the 1991 war and help matters return to normal. Meanwhile, escalation by the other side is continuing, and troops and equipment continues to pour in, thus heralding unpeaceful developments after everyone thought that new leaf had been turned over.

It is truly regrettable that this mounting escalation is taking place in a tense atmosphere and amid overwhelming emotions that leave no room for calm diplomacy, political initiatives, or compromises to at least return to the situation that existed just a week ago, when the United Nations was the scene of diplomatic activity reconsidering the imposed sanctions.

Undoubtedly, it is the responsibility of the side that began the escalation to do whatever is necessary to calm the situation. In this context, the announcement of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the south is viewed with satisfaction. Important as it is, this measure should be followed by yet another more important move, which is the resumption of contacts with the United Nations and the UN Security Council permanent member states to show a clear readiness to recognize the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait. This should be done while still adhering to the legitimate demand for lifting the blockade and rescuing the dear Iraqi people from the ordeal that has been continuing for far too long.

It is disturbing that the crisis has reached such a level of complication and seriousness so rapidly, leaving too little time to defuse the crisis. In the face of looming dangers, everyone should speak out to stop the drums of war and look again for a peaceful solution that ensures the implementation of international resolutions and halts all forms of threats and pressures.

Parties Denounce 'New Campaign' Against Iraq

JN1210000494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Oct 94 p 19

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Nine Jordanian parties have sent a letter to the UN secretary general in which they denounced the new campaign, as well as beating the drums of war against Iraq. The letter says:

In solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people and their right to live in peace without suffering, disease, deprivation, and starvation to death, which have resulted from the unjust blockade that has been going on for more than four years now, although Iraq has met all the conditions and obligations imposed on it by the Security Council and the UN inspection teams, we declare our denunciation of this unjust new campaign, as well as beating the drums of war against Iraq under the pretext that it has moved some of its military units on its territories. Although the UN observers asserted that what was taking place does not constitute a threat or hostility to anyone, the situation is being exploited to justify more aggression against Iraq and to deny it its legitimate demand for lifting the blockade. All this happened as the head of the Special Commission prepared to submit his report on the need to begin to lift the blockade since Iraq has met all the required obligations.

While we believe that the drums of war are being beaten to justify the continuation of the blockade, to impose new conditions, and possibly to commit a new aggression, the 20 million Arabs and Muslims have a right to get food and medicine—a right that should be backed by all nations and states—and that history will not forgive those who contribute to the crime of killing thousands of children every day by denying them medicine and food in order to achieve disgusting political goals.

We appeal to every conscientious person to remember the Iraqi people's legitimate right to food and medicine, to preserve their honor, to hasten the lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on them, and to restore their effective role in the international community without suffering and death. We also call for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution No. 687 as Iraq has met all its obligations.

These parties are: The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Submission and Normalization.

No Usefulness Seen in Iraqi Military Moves

NC1210111394 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 11 Oct 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Kuwait's Sovereignty Is Above the Military Buildup"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is worse than making a mistake is persistence in repeating it.

This was the observers' initial impression as they heard the news of the Iraqi military buildup on the border with Kuwait. It is as though the experience of 1990 and its disasters left no lessons to be learned, or as though for one to get out of an internal crisis he needs to embroil himself and others in a deeper and a more serious one.

Kuwait, which has been building itself brick by brick under the direct supervision of its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, was surprised by the news of the buildup along its border. The Emirate is still busy with rebuilding what was destroyed, reimbursing victims, and searching for the prisoners and the missing. The growing talk about a new invasion created panic among the Kuwaitis and fears about the accomplishments of the fledgling rebuilding process.

But the Kuwaiti leadership, which is diligently working for the recovery of the country, rushed to handle the situation and to dispel people's fears. It embarked on effective contacts with friends and brothers, and it stressed to the public that the situation is calm and stable on the border and inside the country.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, said: "All necessary measures have been taken to boost national security, and the swift response by our brothers and friends should calm people." In a confident tone, he called for maintaining stability and avoiding panic.

But the question remains: What is the objective of this sudden escalation, especially since Baghdad had sent many signals suggesting it was about to finally recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and international border?

Some say that Baghdad wants to pressure the world community into lifting the blockade that was imposed on it after its invasion of Kuwait. But this method cannot be useful because it proves to the world that Iraq's ambitions and way of thinking remains unchanged, which necessitates tightening the blockade, not lifting or even easing it.

Moreover, the escalation rendered gratuitous service to President Clinton's administration. Clinton seized the opportunity to unleash statements and threats in an attempt to regain some of his waning popularity, as opinion polls had shown. The foreign military presence is being intensified in the region, as if those who created the escalation actually want this to happen.

But things were not all bad. The escalation, through the military buildup, led the chiefs of staff [of the Gulf Cooperation Council states] to meet in Riyadh. Arab cohesion was demonstrated and the understanding on the need to close ranks and unite to face all threats was entrenched. The positions of some Arab countries outside the Gulf region also showed the extent of Arab cohesion and solidarity, which had suffered a direct hit in the events of 1990.

It remains for us to call on those who are escalating the situation and ordering the buildup to return to their senses and avoid leading their peoples and brothers into labyrinths where no one can guess what disasters they may bring. The firm indisputable fact is that Kuwait's sovereignty remains above all mobilizations.

Further Reportage on Deportation Efforts

Kafr Huna Deportees Allowed Back

NC1210175894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The intensive contacts undertaken by high-level Lebanese officials resulted in the return of the 26 deportees to Kafr Huna village after they had staged a 90-minute sit-in before the UN premises in Bi'r Hasan [in Beirut] where they issued a message to the UN secretary general appealing to human rights committees to act quickly to return them to their homes and lands.

However, before the Kafr Huna deportees were informed that they could return to their village, 20 citizens from Hula village received orders deporting them outside the occupied border strip. A hostile force raided the village, stormed the houses, gathered the inhabitants in the village square, arrested 20 citizens, and deported them from the occupied border strip after accusing them of collaborating with the resistance and helping its fighters.

Ministers View Deportations

NC1310084394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday the Israeli occupation authorities deported 20 Lebanese citizens from the occupied town of Hula after intensive contacts succeeded in returning 26 deportees to Kafr Huna yesterday. The enemy authorities have said that the new deportees are carrying a message to the Lebanese Government. Lebanon declared its rejection of the Israeli message. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri declared this rejection together with the government, which met under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday. At the outset of the meeting al-Hariri broached the issue of deportees and ways to address it. He said: Every time U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher or any other U.S. official visits the region, Israel carries out operations in the south and tries to pressure Lebanon to destabilize the country. Israel resorts to various methods of pressure, he said, adding: We must wait and see. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told the cabinet that he contacted UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and several heads of diplomatic missions at the United Nations and asked them to put pressure on Israel to stop deporting people from south Lebanon. He noted that the Foreign Ministry will continue its contacts toward this goal.

Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and interior minister, said the cabinet has decided to entrust Foreign Minister Buwayz to hold the necessary diplomatic contacts and to urge the big powers to advise Israel to stop this method.

After the cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said the deportation of Lebanese citizens is a cunning and crafty method, noting that Israel this time insisted that the deportees take their families and cars with them.

The cabinet has entrusted Foreign Minister Buwayz to hold contacts with the countries concerned and the United Nations and to submit a report to the cabinet at its next meeting to make the appropriate decision. The issue may be referred to the Security Council. The cabinet noted that this is a new and serious method of Israeli aggression and that Lebanon will brief the international community.

Information Minister Michel Samahah had this to say on the issue this morning:

[Begin Samahah recording] At every stage of the negotiations and on every visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as part of his peaceful efforts, we have grown accustomed to Israeli attempts to put direct pressure on Lebanon. Israel sometimes launches direct military attacks and sometimes tries to pile on the pressure by attacking Lebanese citizens in the occupied south. This time Israel resorted to a new method of pressure on Lebanon by deporting Lebanese citizens. We are adopting a wait-and-see attitude to the peace process now that Lebanon and Syria have foiled every Israeli diplomatic and security pretext on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. By such behavior, Israel is expressing its internal confusion by making a direct attempt to pressure the Lebanese and Syrian negotiators. [passage omitted] [end recording]

SLA Denies Deporting

NC1310084994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 23 of 26 Lebanese citizens returned to the town of Kafr Huna yesterday. They went to Beirut two days ago to convey to Lebanese political and spiritual leaders their indignation and [words indistinct] the subversive acts by saboteurs in the region. According to reports from Beirut, the local authorities in the border zone deported these citizens. But this was denied by a South Lebanese Army [SLA] source part and parcel. He noted that the citizens themselves requested and received permission to go to Beirut to convey their indignation at the subversive acts.

Birri Leaves for Damascus for Official Talks

NC1110141694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left at noon today for Damascus to hold talks with Syrian officials.

Shooting in Palestinian Camp Said 'Internal' Dispute

NC1210111094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shooting was heard in [the Palestinian] Nahr al-Barid Camp in the north last night. The shooting, which took place from 2200 hours until midnight, was accompanied by the firing of several shells.

Palestinian information indicated that Israeli boats attempted to advance toward the coast and were fired at, but Lebanese security sources affirmed that no boats approached the coast and said the shooting was the result of internal disputes.

Christopher Said Promised 'Every Cooperation'

MM1210133694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Christopher Conveyed to al-Asad U.S. Proposals He Declined To Reveal To Ensure Success of His Mission"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Damascus—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the possibility of giving an impetus to the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile authoritative Syrian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Christopher will find every cooperation in Syria, because Syria continues to maintain the same position supportive of the U.S. efforts aimed at achieving progress in the peace process. It is willing to cooperate sincerely with any endeavor capable of advancing the peace process. But in Syria's view, this endeavor should focus U.S. efforts on persuading Israel to accept the full withdrawal principle, because it has become apparent that this is the only gateway to the region's entry into the era of peace and stability. The sources added that partial withdrawals and phased steps are not the right way to push the peace process forward. [passage omitted]

U.S. Efforts Welcomed, Israeli Withdrawal Urged

JN1210161394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: During his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's adherence to the peace process and to the principles and bases on which it was founded, which serve the interests of all parties. During the meeting, Mr. Christopher commended the seriousness of Syria's position toward achieving the objective of the peace process and said that the United States will continue its peace efforts.

As we welcome the U.S. efforts exerted to push the peace process forward, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and at a time when U.S. Secretary Christopher is continuing his current tour of the region, we ask: To what extent will Christopher be able to bridge the gaps in the positions and ideas at hand? What is required of the U.S. Administration to invest its efforts in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region? We ask this in an atmosphere in which the United States is reaffirming the importance of the Syrian role and its effectiveness in achieving peace and at a time when it is announcing that Syria is serious about playing its positive and constructive role in achieving a real and just peace—a peace based on the resolutions of international resolutions—as well as the objective goal and requirements of the peace process.

If Christopher's tour is to succeed and achieve its desired goals, then it must be based on what is substantial and basic in the peace process. In specific terms, this is represented by ending the Israeli occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon and returning the territories to their owners in exchange for a just and comprehensive peace. Therefore, the one who refuses to withdraw does not want to achieve peace and does not want the region to enjoy stability and tranquility. Indeed, adherence to the occupation and keeping the settlements and settlers in the Golan is considered part of rejecting peace and a contradiction to and circumvention of the requirements of this peace.

According to what is stipulated by the resolutions of international legitimacy, the formula of the Madrid Conference, and the U.S. initiative, ending the occupation entails the occupation forces' full abandonment of the Golan, a full dismantlement and removal of the settlements, and thus, the return of the Golan to Syria, the mother homeland, which includes its sons, territories, plains, mountains, hills, and waters. This is because peace and occupation can never coexist. There can only be peace through balanced arrangements that are not made at the expense of one party to serve the interest of another. Hence, peace is not the concern of just one party and is not a gain for one party at the expense of another. It is a peace that achieves the interests of all parties.

By committing itself to withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, Israel will not be offering a concession to Syria, Lebanon, or the Arabs, because the territories it is occupying are not its own territories. In order to achieve peace, these territories must return to their real owners. Accordingly, Syria reaffirms that, to it, peace is a strategic option and will not be something other than that.

Syria linked words to deeds and showed its great concern about achieving a just and comprehensive peace—a peace represented by both ends of an equation; that is, a full withdrawal in exchange for a comprehensive peace. Syria has nothing to hide because it is sincere in its peace efforts and policy. It is also sincere in adhering to the constants and principles of the peace process and in committing itself to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the objectives of the peace process.

Syria will not be deceived by attempts and maneuvers to circumvent what is substantial and basic in the peace process. This is because inasmuch as it is concerned about restoring its rights and territories, Syria is also concerned about preventing more tragedies, disasters, and commotion in the region in case Israel continues to promote its pretexts and maneuvers and ignore the historical, geographical, and political facts of the conflict in the region and the means to solve this conflict.

By reiterating its adherence to the principles and bases of the peace process, Syria is renewing its seriousness toward peace and is reaffirming its great concern about the success of the peace process.

Afghanistan

Central Bank Announcement on Credit Measures

LD1010200794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan International Service in English 1630 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Announcement of De [as heard] Afghanistan Bank or the Central Bank of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to provide more facilities in banking transactions for national businessmen, individuals, and trade companies, De Afghanistan Bank inform dear compatriots of the following points: 1. Banks are ready to accept afghani in lieu of foreign currency at five percent less than free market rates of exchange on that day when companies, traders, and individuals open the primary goods letter of credit accounts with a bank to import primary necessity goods.

2. Other letter of credit accounts will be opened with afghanis at two percent less than the exchange rate in the free market on that day.

3. The settlement of balance will be carried out in afghanis at two percent less than the free market exchange rate on that day.

4. Letter of credit and other banking services fees will be accepted in afghanis.

5. Hard currency bank loans will also be settled in afghanis at two percent less than the free market exchange rate. This procedure shall be practiced for three month as from the date of this announcement by commercial banks. Esteemed businessmen and companies can benefit from these banking facilities and concessions in the prescribed period.

Council of Ministers Session Reported

LD1210200494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers has held a session chaired by esteemed Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani.

As usual, the cabinet members discussed new developments and the country's political situation.

Based on a proposal presented by the Ministries of Border Affairs and Civil Aviation regarding the allocation of funds to their ministries, the Council of Ministers rendered a decision.

The visit to some foreign countries by a delegation from the Ministries of High and Vocational Education, Light Industries, and Foodstuffs was also approved.

Heavy Losses Reported After Alleged Uzbek Attacks

LD1010142894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past two days the city of Kondoz has been bombarded by Uzbek airplanes, and the civilians of the city suffered heavy damages. Reports received by the Bakhtar Information Agency say that over the past two days the city of Kondoz has been bombarded 35 times by Uzbekistan's warplanes, which have inflicted heavy losses of life and material damage on the civilian residents of the city. So far, precise information on the loss of lives has not been received. Esteemed Mohammad Naser Formol, executive governor of the northern zone, and the leadership of Kondoz Province visited the bombarded areas yesterday, and promised immediate assistance and cooperation from the Islamic state for the afflicted.

Fighting Reported in Kabul, Konduz

LD0910190694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Regions controlled by the Government of Afghanistan in eastern Kabul were subjected to rocket and mortar attacks today. According to the Central News Unit from Kabul, two people were killed and 18 wounded as a result of this attack. Another report from Afghanistan states: Heavy fighting is continuing in the province of Konduz in the north of that country and, according to news sources, the commander of the 54th Division of the Afghan Government was killed in this fighting.

Charkh District Captured by Pro-Rabbani Forces

LD0810180494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Charkh District in Logar Province was cleared of the dirt of the Golboddin-Dostam militia. A responsible source reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that this morning forces of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan], commanded by Sayforrahman Mansur, Mollah Ahmad, and [words indistinct], launched an offensive in Charkh District, Logar Province, and cleared the district of the presence of the militia.

As a result of this successful operation one chain tank, six-wheel motor vehicles, 160 Kalashnikov rifles, eight pieces of heavy weapons, and a quantity of an assortment of arms [words indistinct].

Deaths of Government, Militia Commanders Reported

Pro-Government Commander Killed

LD0810200094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A commander of Abdol Ali Mazari, known as Ali (?Jungi), was killed last night in the west of Kabul. Reports received by the Bakhtar Information Agency says that Alijan, known as (?Jungi), a commander of Mazari's men, and his deputy Shafi Dewana were killed last night in a clash with the Golboddin militia in the west of Kabul.

The aforementioned commander was notorious for his oppression, murder, and looting of people's property. Since the start of recent clashes in the west of Kabul, a number of Mazari's commanders such as Nasir-e (?Kal), (?Baqer) Tofan, Alijan Jungi, and some others have been killed.

Pro-Rabbani Commander Killed

LD0810172494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] With regret we were informed that Commander Amir Mohammad, commander of 54th Jehadi Division of Konduz Province, and one of the famous jehadi personalities of the country, became a martyr yesterday in a face to face battle with the enemies of Islam, the homeland, and freedom.

Commander Amir Mohammad, son of (?Fateh Mohammad), was born in 1958 in [words indistinct] in Khanabad District, Konduz Province, [words indistinct]. He started school at Khanabad High School in 1965 and graduated from the 12th grade of the school. Martyred Amir Mohammad joined the armed jehad against Kufr and Communism in 1358 [starting 21 March 1979]. He took part in operations and conquests in the provinces of Konduz, Takhar, Baghlan, and [words indistinct]. Similarly, he actively participated in most operations against the Communists and the agents of the regime, and was wounded four times [words indistinct].

Amir Mohammad became a martyr in a face to face battle with the enemies of Islam and the country on 7 October. May his soul be happy and his memories dear.

India

Canceled Visit Seen as 'Setback' in Iranian Ties

BK1310054394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Oct 13 (AFP)—India has summoned its envoy from Tehran for "urgent consultations" following the abrupt cancellation of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to New Delhi, officials said Thursday.

The Indian ambassador to Iran, Sidhartha Singh, has been asked to brief the government about the implications of the cancellation, which is being seen here as a major diplomatic setback for New Delhi, foreign ministry officials said.

Rafsanjani was to have come here this month on the first visit by an Iranian head of state to India since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Newspapers here said the Iranian move had shocked the Indian government.

Iranian diplomats cited the outbreak of plague in India, which has left 58 people dead since September, as the ostensible reason for Rafsanjani putting off the visit. The visit had been expected to chart a new course in bilateral ties.

But Indian officials discounted the explanation, saying Iran's naval chief, Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, visited New Delhi in the first week of October when the plague scare was at its peak.

Rafsanjani is to go ahead with his planned, week-long tour of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei starting Thursday as scheduled.

The Indian government, which issued a terse statement Tuesday announcing the cancellation, broke its silence Wednesday and indicated it was not very keen on receiving the Iranian president next year.

"Iran has suggested that President Rafsanjani's visit could take place next year," a spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs said. "As far as we are concerned, we will look into the dates next year."

Rafsanjani was to originally have arrived here on October 10, but the visit was postponed because of the plague epidemic. The Indian spokesman said fresh dates were under consideration when Tehran suddenly changed its mind.

"An advance party from Iran visited India in September for this purpose and two more were expected," the spokesman said.

Indian diplomats say the Iranian decision may be linked to the upcoming UN General Assembly session where India and Pakistan are as usual expected to have a showdown over Kashmir.

Iran, the diplomats say, may have wanted to distance itself at this juncture from Hindu-majority India, although it is keen on expanding commercial and defence ties.

"Iran's precipitate action would be a major setback to its bilateral relations with India," THE PIONEER newspaper said, reflecting a widely-held view here.

In 1990, Iran called off a visit by then-Indian external affairs minister Inder Kumar Gujral to Tehran at the eleventh hour over the escalating tensions in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Iran has in the past expressed solidarity with the "Moslem masses" of Kashmir, a picturesque region whose southern two-thirds are held by New Delhi and where a bloody separatist campaign has left some 10,000 dead since 1989. Pakistan controls the northern third of the territory.

The Indian government has mostly overlooked Iran's involvement in Kashmir, while repeatedly denouncing Pakistan's support to the Moslem guerrillas wanting to secede from the Indian union.

Commentary Reviews Development of Gulf Crisis

BK1210120594 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Commentary by All India Radio's former West Asia correspondent Jagmohan Mathur: "Uneasy Situation in the Gulf"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite Iraq's announcement that it is withdrawing its forces from areas near Kuwaiti border, the crisis in the Gulf has not ended. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, has said that the military buildup in the Gulf will continue as they do not trust Mr. Saddam Husayn. Iraq will have to comply with all UN resolutions in toto.

President Clinton has ordered 54,000 troops to the Gulf to protect Kuwait. Some troops have already arrived in the Gulf and are in combat position. A contingent of more than 350 warplanes, including bombers used in 1991 Gulf war, have been dispatched. The aircraft carrier, USS George Washington, is also on the way to the Gulf. Britain and France have dispatched their frigates to the area. The U.S. has sent Patriot missiles to Kuwait for its protection. Cruise missiles are also being deployed. Saudi Arabia has permitted use of its bases by American forces. Other Gulf Cooperation Council members have extended full support. Thus the buildup is on huge scale, as was in 1991.

Now, Americans admit some evidence of Iraqi troops pullout, whereas the Iraqi ambassador informed the Security Council that their troops have almost completed the withdrawal. The Security Council has declared that the United Nations was prepared to protect Kuwait's sovereignty. Diplomats believe Iraqi troops movement was not aimed at provoking a new war. Mr. Saddam Husayn did not forget the crushing defeat it received at the hands of U.S.-led coalition forces only four years ago. The economy of the country is in shambles and cannot stand a second war. The move was for drawing international attention toward misery brought on to its people by continuing economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council immediately after the end of the Gulf war in 1991. It is evident from the statement made by the Iraqi president earlier. Mr. Saddam Husayn said that the crisis could be defused if economic sanctions are lifted. Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council has threatened to cut off cooperation with the UN weapon inspectors until Security Council moves toward lifting sanctions. On the same issue recently, the United States and Iraqi representatives clashed in the General Assembly.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz bitterly criticized the United States and Britain for blocking lifting of sanctions against Baghdad despite it fulfilling obligations under the Security Council resolutions. Mr. 'Aziz termed their attitude as (?inequitable) and illegitimate. Iraq also sought India's cooperation in getting sanctions lifted. It may be recalled that after the Gulf war, the Security Council passed two basic resolutions. One was number 687, which asked Iraq to destroy all its long-range ballistic missiles of more than 150-kilometer range and weapons of mass destruction. The resolution number 715 demanded Iraq to permit permanent monitoring of some of its military establishments and missile testing sites. This was to ensure compliance with the restrictions on requiring its military capabilities. [sentence as heard] The resolution number 687 also tied up future Iraqi oil revenue in order to secure payments of compensation and reparation for damages caused by Iraqi occupation and the war.

Iraq has vast oil resources and its 95 percent export earnings depend on oil. Iraq wants to sell immediately some of its oil to meet its domestic needs of food, medicine, etc., but under sanctions it is not allowed to do so. It appears that Mr. Saddam Husayn's calculations and timing have gone wrong. When Iraq is likely to win sympathy in favor of lifting sanctions, tide actually is turning against it due to massing of troops near Kuwaiti border. Another important point is that Iraq has still not recognized Kuwait's independence and boundary demarcated by the United Nations. Therefore, the U.S., UK, and all oil-rich Arab nations are opposed to lifting of sanctions. India buys a lot of its oil requirements from Gulf countries. Many Indians are also working in these countries. Therefore, India sincerely wants that peace should prevail in the region.

Radio Cites WHO on 'Rapidly Ending' Plague

BK1310014894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The World Health Organization said the outbreak of plague in India is rapidly ending. In a press release issued in New Delhi, it said there has been very limited spread of the disease outside the originally infected areas of Bir in Maharashtra and Surat in Gujarat. The WHO said outside Bir and Surat, some local transmission of pneumonic plague might have occurred but this did not prove to be of epidemic nature. It said there is no restriction for travellers visiting India or passengers in transit at Indian airports. The statement said the WHO director general has set up an international team of experts to investigate the plague cases with an aim to reassure the world that all necessary steps are being taken to bring the situation under control.

Iran

Ministry 'Vehemently' Condemns U.S. Gulf Buildup

NC1310120194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the buildup of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf, which took place recently on the pretext of the latest Iraqi moves on the Kuwaiti border, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement declaring the U.S. presence and strengthening of U.S. forces in the region as an effort to achieve its expansionist objectives and vehemently condemned it.

This statement, while condemning all kinds of militaristic and anarchy-generating policies in the region, deems the reinforcement of U.S. forces, even in circumstances when the Iraqi troops had withdrawn from the border near Kuwait, as the cause of the proliferation of the tension and a contravention of international regulations.

Calling on the regional countries to remain vigilant in the face of the dubious U.S. policies, the Foreign Ministry rejects all kinds of assistance to the enemies of Islam for occupying the region on the pretext of ensuring security and eliminating threats and stresses: The presence of foreigners in such a sensitive and strategic region will not only harm the vital resources of the Islamic nations, but will also endanger the peace and security of the region.

In this statement, the Foreign Ministry recalled that the peace and stability of the sensitive Persian Gulf region is only possible under the aegis of respect for the sovereignty and safeguarding of the territorial integrity of every country in the region.

The statement calls on every country in the region to refrain from any instigatory action. Such action only ensures the illicit interests of the foreigners.

Khamene'i on Women's Issues, U.S. Activity in Gulf

LD1210162094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Husayn's sister Zaynab and Nurses Day, in the Hoseyniyeh-ye Imam Khomeyni prayer center in Tehran on 12 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to express my greetings on the very auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zaynab. [passage omitted]

Nursing is a very dear profession. It is a valuable profession. These are evident facts. People do not say these things about nurses, women or men, just to be kind. It is the truth of the matter. [passage omitted]

The better you deliver the service you perform, the more correctly you perform it, the better will be the daily lives of the people—as far as it relates to your job. Also, you will be rewarded highly. Thanks to God, so far the patients, the relatives of patients, and other who are involved all speak of hard work and services offered by the nurses. I hope God will reward you for your work. [passage omitted]

The issue of women and the approach of different societies towards them, my sisters, is one that has been raised in the various societies and civilizations. [passage omitted] Islam has chosen an outstanding approach toward women. It has not taken an extreme course. It has given a warning to all the people of the world. Islam put those people, those men, who with the power of their physical strength or financial ability, were employing men and women and were abusing women and occasionally insulting them, firmly in their place. Islam placed women in their true position. [passage omitted]

All the uproar of today's Western propaganda about Muslims concerns hejab [Islamic dress]. You can see how sensitive they are toward hejab. If hejab is observed in the Islamic Republic, they condider it repulsive. They show sensitivity if hejab is observed in the Arab countries' universities, where young, clever, intelligent women students have turned to wearing hejab voluntarily. They show sensitivity if hejab is observed among political parties. They are sensitive even if hejab is observed in their own countries' schools and primary schools despite the fact that they have control over the schools. The point of conflict is here.

Thus, in their propaganda, they continuously scream that the rights of women are trampled on in Islam or in the Islamic Republic. They themselves do not believe in this issue. Women's rights have not been weakened in the Islamic Republic; rather, they have been strengthened.

You can look and see whether the number of women students, girls who study in higher educational institutions, is higher today or was higher during the satanic regime [shah's regime]. You can see that today the number is higher. You should see whether the number of outstanding students with top grades in education, who have passed all the levels of their education, is higher today or was higher at that time. You can see that it is higher today. Is the number of women who work in the health centers and are engaged in work and research in various scientific centers in this country higher today or was it higher then? You can see that it is higher today. Is the number of women who are strongly represented in the country's political arena and in the international gatherings and defend the rights and views of their country and nation higher today or was it higher then? You can see that it is higher today.

At that time women were going abroad with various delegations, but this was a formality. They went to enjoy themselves. They were going to draw attention by showing off their bare shoulders.

Muslim women today are present in the international societies, in various international gatherings, in the sceintific centers, in the universities, but it is only a scientific, political, or serving presence. This is important. [passage omitted]

Where have the rights of the women been wasted? In those places where women are prevented from receiving education. In places where the employment of women in the positions suitable for them is prevented. Where serving women or offering services to women are prevented. Those places where women are humiliated. Where is that place in which women are humiliated? You should go and see American society and you will see how women are humiliated.

A women in a family is humiliated by her husband. A mother in a family is humiliated by her childern. The rights of a mother do not mean what they mean in Islamic places. [passage omitted]

Yes, there is a boundary between a man and woman. The meaning of this boundary is not that women and men should not get education in the same environment, or perform prayers in the same environment, or work or trade in the same environment. There are many such cases and every one can see it. It means that they should observe limits in their social rules of behavior. This is a very good idea. A woman keeps her hejab and our people have chosen chador [Islamic dress].

We have never said that it should be chador and nothing else. Yes, we have said that chador is better than any other type of hejab. But our women want to protect their hejab. They love chador. Chador is our national custom. Chador is an Iranian tradition first rather than an Islamic tradition. It belongs to our people. It is our national dress. They wear it and look good. The enemy's propaganda is as such.

Educated, literate, Muslim, studious women who are either studying or teaching in universities—there are many pious women, women who are hezbollahi in the true sense of the word, who are teaching the best courses at the highest levels in universities today. This is a source of pride for our Islamic system. [passage omitted]

The West wants to impose its culture on everyone. The culture of the West is nakedness. Of course, this nakedness, this corruption, this shameful manner in which some women live in many Western countries is not all-pervasive, God be praised. This nakedness is something which is on the increase because of their own wrongheaded propaganda; otherwise, even up to 40 or 50 years ago, things were not so bad in the West. They want to export this immorality and corruption—to which they themselves have succumbed—to Islamic countries. We do not want this. It is something that is harmful to social life. It is harmful for them as well. It would be harmful anywhere. The Islamic way is best for us.

Our women have shown, throughout the revolution and after, that they rank among the best as far as the true values and standards of life are concerned. A mother who offers her sons as sacrifices in the path of God, to achieve a goal, a goal which is sacred to her and which is also sacred to God, and who does not question this for a minute— well, this is admirable. This is no small matter. This would be considered as a great thing anywhere in the world, measured by any standard.

Is it not a credit to Islam that our young women remained faithful to their husbands who were imprisoned by the enemy for 10 to 11 years? This is valuable. Our women were present in the battlefield too. They took part in the reconstruction work. They have been more active in the arena of boosting morale than anyone else. [passage omitted]

See how the enemy is launching savage attacks on Islamic sanctities overtly and covertly. Throughout the 15-year period since the Islamic revolution, both during the time of imam [Khomeyni]—may God sanctify his soul—and afterwards, the enemies of the Islamic regime never, not even for a moment, abandoned the intention of inflicting blows on the Islamic Republic. Today if you see they are apparently silent, they are hatching plots. Now that you see, praise be to God, the Islamic regime is stable in its place, it is because the enemy blows have failed. It does not mean they did not try to inflict blows.

Some foolish statesmen of global arrogance explicitly express their feelings and intentions. Some of them keep it a secret. However, most of the developments in our region are somehow planned to inflict a blow on Islam, the Islamic regime, and the Islamic nation. The same issue of the day—that is, the dispatch of the U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf, the arrival of the marines, the aircraft carriers, the sensational propaganda about the Iraqi move, and the Iraqi military movement itself—they all seem highly suspicious to us, highly suspicious. It is obvious that global arrogance is thinking of consolidating its stronghold in this region by whatever means possible.

Once upon a time the British were the absolute rulers in the Persian Gulf. Praise be to God, the Islamic movement, the reawakening of the Iranian nation, and various events routed them in the Persian Gulf. Now the Americans wish to fill their place. What is your business in the Persian Gulf? The security of the Persian Gulf is none of your business. Why should you come from the other end of the world to interfere in this region?

They say: We have national interests here. Is this a logical statement? Would it be right if every country interfered in the affairs of other countries under the excuse of protecting its own interests? What is the meaning of international regulations then? Why did they set up the United Nations with so much razzmatazz? What is the objective of so many global resolutions and the so-called international conventions? The whole objective was to prevent a powerful bully state from setting sail to another region, to a vitally important international waterway or lake or gulf, under the pretext of protecting its own interests. What is your justification for coming here, to a region that does not belong to you in any way, just under the excuse that Iraq intended to move troops? Saddam Husayn keeps denying such intentions, whereas they keep insisting and then come to the Persian Gulf. What is the justification for dispatching such a huge volume of forces?

These developments show that the Iranian nation must remain vigilant. You should not think the enemy has gone to sleep and now you can live with peace of mind.

The Lord of the Believers ['Ali, the first Shiite imam] said: The ambitious shall not close their eyelids for fear of ambitious enemies.

All that time, our eminent imam pleaded with the Iranian nation not to lose its sensitivity toward world events. That sensitivity should be there today too, and God be praised, it is. All over this country there are believing and Hezbollahi youth, families who abide strictly by the principles of the revolution, devout women and men, strong hearts, high spirits. There are so many of them on every scene that, God be praised, they can defend their country, their Islam, their Islamic revolution, their dignity, and their country's independence against any enemy. [Crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Down with those who are against the Guardianship of the Supreme Jurisconsult," "Down with America," "Down with Israel," "Down with the Hypocrites and Saddam," "Down with Israel."]

We hope that God Almighty grants you esteemed ladies success, for each of you are responsible for some section of this country's affairs, working in universities, providing services, or carry out scientific or political work. God willing, our country's men and women will take holy Zaynab as a model. God's peace and mercy be upon you. [Crowd chants: "God's hand is protecting us," "Khamene'i is our leader."]

GCC Talks Viewed; Involving U.S. Said 'Blunder'

NC1310130694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 13 Oct 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] convened an extraordinary session in Kuwait to assess the tension on the southern Iraqi border. The session concluded with a statement declaring that Iraq should implement the Security Council resolutions and withdraw its forces from the Kuwaiti border.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also participated in the extraordinary session of the GCC foreign ministers meeting hosted by Kuwait. In conjunction with this political activity to combat any Iraqi military action against Kuwait, the United States continues to dispatch its military forces to the region within this framework.

This action by Washington is taking place when the Iraqi military forces have withdrawn from the Kuwaiti border and this issue has been confirmed by the foreign military allies and even by the White House. While ensuring national security is a legitimate right for every country, doing so by involving a foreign country in regional affairs is a political blunder that endangers the independence of the littoral countries and the stability of the region.

Insecurity in Haiti, which proliferated after the entry of U.S. forces in this region, is perhaps the best example to highlight this danger. Thus, preserving the region's security is the most important objective for which the participation of all the Persian Gulf countries is imperative.

With its recent military actions on the Kuwaiti border, the Iraqi Government has inadvertently provided grist for the U.S. mill and has endangered the security of the region. For over four decades the United States has harbored the desire to control Persian Gulf oil resources and to ensure Israel's security. By its multifaceted capitalizing on the consecutive errors of the Baghdad hierarchy in the past four years the United States achieved some of its longstanding objectives. It is striving to continue this policy until it achieves all its arrogant objectives in the region.

By magnifying the mistakes of the Baghdad rulers, Washington is instilling fear in the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms for their security and is thus projecting its military presence in the region as justifiable. The United States is bringing the vast oil reserves of the region under its complete control and, by retaining the crisis-ridden dossier of Baghdad, it seeks to fan the dichotomy among the Arab countries initiated during the oil war. Under the aegis of this discord and animosity, the United States is trying to divide the coreligionist and kindred countries by imposing the despotic Israeli entity on the region.

Yesterday the great leader of the revolution referred to the U.S. objectives in creating a hue and cry in the region to generate insecurity in the Persian Gulf region and said: The presence of U.S. Marines and aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf is very suspicious. We believe that the powers of world arrogance are awaiting an opportunity to strengthen a foothold in the region by every means possible. He rejected this action by the United States as a contravention of international norms and stated: The security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the regional countries and the powers of world arrogance do not have the right to interfere in this region.

The corpus of these realities highlights the obligation of the regional countries, which is to prevent such direct and indirect political and economic extortion by the United States of each country in the region and to find another way to resolve mutual differences.

The Persian Gulf littoral countries should not ignore the reality that their geographical proximity with Iraq and other regional countries is eternal and infinite while their political coalition and union with the world powers will always be unstable and will not last.

'Suspicious Nature' of Iraqi Movements Viewed

LD1310141394 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—Following the suspicious military movement of the Iraqi troops near the Kuwaiti borders, the military expedition of Western countries, led by the United States, to the region has entered a new phase.

Political observers who watch the Middle East developments, are of the view that Baghdad by invading Kuwait in 1990 provided a good excuse for Western countries and NATO members to dispatch an unprecedented military expedition.

Iraq once again by its suspicious massing of troops has paved the way for the United States to continue to keep its troops in the region.

According to an international politics expert, Dr. Jafari, the suspicious nature of the military movements becomes very clear considering that Western countries, specially the United States and Britain, not only did not halt their military expedition despite withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the Kuwaiti borders, but intensified their military build up in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has recently declared that by sending more than 350 advanced planes to the Persian Gulf region he is to increase number of U.S. jet fighters in the region to 534.

According to the U.S. Defense Department, the number of American troops in the Persian Gulf is to reach 70,000 in the near future.

Dr. Jafari says following the collapse of the eastern block, the traditional enemy of West, most of the developments in the region aims at confronting Islam.

Following the partial lifting of sanctions against the Zionist regime by littoral states of the Persian Gulf upon Washington's recommendations, the White House is now trying to convince heads of these Arab states of its support.

On U.S. claims that its presence aims at restoration of security in the Persian Gulf, Jafari says that after the expulsion of British troops from the Persian Gulf in 1970, the United States has been trying to replace Britain in the region and to impose the so-called U.S. security system on regional countries.

U.S. security system mainly aims at confronting Islam and selling weapons to the Persian Gulf southern littoral states in a bid to guarantee security of the Zionist regime, he says.

Media Views Reasons Behind U.S. Actions in Gulf

Activity Linked to Oil, Arms Sales

LD1210203894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the crisis along Iraq-Kuwait border, the foreign ministers of the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, convened an extraordinary session in Kuwait, Wednesday, to survey the current situation in the region. This is at a time when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd are scheduled to attend the session. The French foreign minister also is due to open his tour of the Persian Gulf littoral states, including Kuwait, next Saturday.

Visits of Western officials and their backing for the Kuwait Government come at a time when the United States continues to send its troops, aircraft, and warships to Kuwait. Despite the Iraqi content on Tuesday about withdrawal of its troops from the Kuwaiti border, Washington, on various pretexts, is trying to question this pullback. In this regard Baghdad has requested the military attaches of Russia and China to closely supervise over the removal of the Iraqi forces to other points. In this way it appears that some Western states, especially America, are not interested in terminating the crisis and prefer that the region remains tense, at least for some time.

Political observers believe that one of the major goals of America in adopting this posture is to sell more weapons to the PGCC states. These states, at the termination of the Oil War-2, under the influence of American propaganda about the Iraqi threat, had purchased military hardware worth billions of dollars. At the same time, Washington, by magnifying the crisis, intends to further delay the lifting or relaxation of the economic sanctions against Iraq.

It must be pointed out that some analysts believe that the lifting or relaxation of the Iraqi sanctions, which will entail that country's entry into the world oil market, will probably lower the oil prices. Such an issue is, however, not desired by America. The reason is that an oil price slump will affect the ability of Saudi Arabia, number one purchaser of weapons from America, to repay its outstanding debts to Washington.

The White House, which is currently seeking to extend the sanctions against Iraq under the conditions when the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, Tuesday expressed concern over malnutrition of children in Iraq. Thus, based on the U.S. contentions about the defense of human rights, it is not known as until when in the opinion of the Clinton administration, the suffering of Iraqi nation must tolerate pressure and hunger due to the mistakes committed by the Baghdad regime.

Said Cover for 'Political Deals'

NC1210204694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the second leg of his new Middle Eastern tour which began last Sunday, after concluding discussions with Israeli officials, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus yesterday, Tuesday. He held a three-and-a-half-hour round of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

This is the U.S. secretary of state's fifth regional tour in the past few months. It is designed to bridge the gap between the positions of Syria and the Zionist entity.

Although Warren Christopher's regional tours have become commonplace events, the United States is trying this time to divert public attention to another issue in order to cover up for Christopher's failure to solve the disputes between Syria and Israel. It is doing this with extensive media clamor about a crisis between Iraq and Kuwait.

Christopher's tour of the countries negotiating with the Zionist entity coincided with a meeting today of the U.S. and British foreign secretaries, the French foreign minister, and the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf countries.

As the U.S. secretary of state announced, the gap between Syria and Israel persists and most of the disputes remain unsolved.

On the other hand, the Zionist entity regards the very first interview ever given by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Israeli television as a positive step in the history of the Syrian-Israeli conflict. Official Damascus newspapers regard al-Shar's statement that there should be an unconditional Zionist withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a reassertion of Syria's firm stance.

Actually, Syria persists in its position rejecting any partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and the al-Biqa'. In contrast, Zionist officials insist on a gradual withdrawal and demand that, prior to any withdrawal from the Golan, the border between Syria and occupied Palestine should be opened and normal relations should be established in line with a bilateral peace treaty.

Despite such a big media campaign, it is apparent that Christopher will not be able to submit a final peaceful settlement plan or persuade Syria and Israel to make concessions to each other.

In light of the foregoing, one can explain the media uproar provoked by the United States about current developments in the Persian Gulf as an attempt to cover up for Christopher's regional tour.

Some political observers suggest that the tense media atmosphere in the region is designed to divert public attention to the Persian Gulf while political deals are made behind the scenes elsewhere. Such deals would go through even if Christopher returns empty-handed to Washington.

President on Agenda for Southeast Asia Trip

LD1210224094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the head of a high-ranking delegation, left for Jakarta on an official seven-day tour of Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia at the invitation of the heads of those states. The ministers for foreign affairs, economic affairs and finance, PTT, and a group of state and Army officials accompany the president.

The president was seen off by First Vice President Habibi; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Golpayegani, head of the exalted leader's office; the deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; several cabinet members; groups of Majles deputies; and judiciary officials, as well as a group of military officials.

Before departure, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani told our reporter: The grounds for talks with the authorities of these three states are many. He added: The ways of cooperation for the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN; and the Third World issues, which are the focus of attention by world circles, are on our agenda.

Departs for Indonesia

LD1210202194 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report by our correspondent, just received from Mehrabad Airport, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. He is leading a high-ranking delegation on a seven-day tour of Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia.

Before boarding the plane, the president told our correspondent: The agenda of our talks with the authorities of the countries we are to visit contains issues of greatest interest and the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and those three states.

Plane Crash Claims 66 Lives; Investigation Begun

LD1310115794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] More than 60 of our compatriots were unfortunately killed in the crash of a Fokker-28 passenger plane belonging to the Aseman Airlines Company near the township of Natanz. [passage omitted] The acting managing director of the Aseman Airlines Company spoke about the incident to our correspondent a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified managing director] [passage omitted: 59 passengers and 7 crew died in the crash] We are right now in the process of moving the bodies and will be transferring them to Esfahan's coroner's office by tomorrow, God willing. Technical and operational teams from various regions are at the moment investigating the causes of the crash and we shall convey this information to the public as soon as it becomes available. We express our condolences to all bereaved families and ask God to give them strength. [end recording]

New English-Language Daily Profiled

NC0710113694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—A new English language daily, IRAN NEWS, headed by Mohammad Soltanifar, with Morteza Firoozi as Editor-in-Chief, appeared on the newsstands yesterday.

After the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the TEHRAN TIMES was the first English language daily to appear on the horizon of Iranian journalism. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL followed suit.

Before 1979 Iran had two English dailies, the ETTELA'AT group's TEHRAN JOURNAL and KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL. Both papers were closed down at the peak of the Islamic Revolution.

Soltanifar and Firuzi used to work with the TEHRAN TIMES in the same capacity.

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